

Bobbies on the boat: Policemen rowing a 27ft whaler down the Thames yesterday in training for a charity row from London across the Channel and up the Seine to Paris, which will start on June 14

## Kinnock calls for statement

## Tory hint of change on poll tax backfires

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's plans for the future of the community charge were in deep confusion last night after an attempt by the Prime Minister to reassure Conservative backbenchers of her readiness to change it backfire.

Only a week from the local government elections, the Government confirmed that legislation to amend the new community charge, introduced four weeks ago, could be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

It is clear that the department most closely involved — the Department of the Environment, the Treasury and Downing Street — are far from agreement on the extent of the reform required to make the new system more palatable, and whether legislation is needed. One option under active consideration is the introduction of powers to poll tax cap all councils.

Yesterday's developments,

which led to a call to Mrs Thatcher from Mr Neil Kinnock for a Commons statement on Monday, arose after *The Independent* newspaper quoted unattributed 10 Downing Street sources as telling Conservative MPs the Prime Minister wanted to make important changes to the tax with legislation to be published by July. The "sources" were Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd, the Prime Minister's parliamentary private secretary.

It appeared yesterday that he had told Conservative MPs no more than had been known since Mrs Thatcher told the Conservative Central Council in Cheltenham at the end of last month that everyone had the right to look to government and Parliament to protect them from "overpowering legislation."

That was interpreted and reported at the time as showing that the Government was considering whether legislation would be needed to revamp the charge and make sure that any extra money put into it went direct to change-payers and was not used for extra spending.

It was confirmed yesterday that Mr Lennox-Boyd had indeed told the MPs that if the review of the charge showed the need for legislation it would be introduced. But they denied that Mrs Thatcher had insisted that the legislation be published by July, if legislation is needed — an outcome which Department of the Environment sources regard as far from certain — it will come in the next session of Parliament and could be a short Bill rushed through before the next financial year.

The results of the review, and whether it requires legislation, will be announced by Mr



## Heseltine presses Thatcher

By Nicholas Wood and Michael Binnyon

MR MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday added to the pressure on Mrs Margaret Thatcher on the eve of the Dublin summit of European Community leaders by urging her to commit Britain to negotiations about political union.

The issue has been thrust to the centre-stage following the Franco-German declaration calling for an agreement by January 1993, and will dominate today's talks.

Mrs Thatcher has already categorized the call as "esoteric and premature" and is hostile to anything threatening the supremacy of Parliament — a message underlined yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who warned about the dangers of the Community becoming entangled in the "institutional thicket" of reform.

Mr Heseltine, the foremost Tory proponent of the European ideal and Mrs Thatcher's arch-rival, said that Britain could not stand apart from the desire of France and Germany for a closer political partnership to parallel that developing on the economic and monetary fronts.

He called on her to adopt the same "hard-headed approach" guiding Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand and added: "We must use every political skill to find arrangements within which we can live. We must do so, because all the available alternatives are worse."

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Mr Lennox-Boyd told MPs of planned changes

Personal data, page 4  
Leading article, page 11

Farmers' windfall, page 3  
Dublin showman, page 10  
Letters, page 11

Right of silence, page 4

## Soviet civil war alert

WARNINGS by Britain about a possible Soviet civil war have played a key role in US reluctance to help Lithuania.

As Lithuania appealed yesterday for Western aid to help overcome Moscow's economic blockade, a senior US Administration source confirmed that concern about the fragility of the Soviet Union was an important factor in President Bush's decision not to impose economic sanctions on Moscow.

Senior British officials have been involved in discussions in Washington which were said to be "as close as you

UK warning, page 7  
Leading article, page 13

## On tap at last, the plumber with charm

By Peter Davenport

INDOLENT plumbers who fail to arrive on time and then overcharge for their efforts may soon be creatures of the past.

Yesterday the first pupils at a charm school for the trade graduated with a licence to prove that they will be polite and smart, forsake bad language and hardly ever demand tea.

Nine plumbers have been attending an intensive four-week course at a charm school run by Yorkshire Water to train a new generation of its artisans to the highest standards of customer care and attention.

To those who have run foul of the old variety of plumber, the syllabus makes fascinating reading, covering behaviour, appearance and personal hygiene as well as customer care and attitude to complaints, which, it says,

should be welcomed — and responded to within the hour.

On matters of personal hygiene and appearance, the new-look plumber is the embodiment of personal freshness: clean hair, breath, hands, fingernails, arms and feet. His deodorant should be unobtrusive and he should not display "evidence of having consumed alcohol".

The customer should be addressed formally — "John", "chie" or "chum" are frowned on — and should be kept aware of the progress of work.

The plumber should not play his transistor radio on the customer's premises, nor consume refreshments without invitation. He should also not smoke or volunteer any opinions other than of a professional nature.

The new code of practice for one of the most misigned of trades has been drawn up by officials of Yorkshire

Water and is set out in a handbook issued to yesterday's graduates.

On completion of the course, run at the company's Elvington Works near York, each graduate, already a qualified plumber, receives a provisional licence from Waterlink, the Yorkshire Water company which provides plumbing and heating services and for which they work.

After an additional six months' service, and subject to satisfactory reports from customers and the acquisition of more technical qualifications, they will be granted a full licence.

The courses are open only to qualified City and Guilds plumbers. As well as guidance on behaviour, appearance and customer care, they also include detailed instruction about water by-laws, safety practices and heating and water systems. The

Waterlink company currently operates only in North Yorkshire and has 10 full-time plumbers on its staff as well as employing 50 contractors, but it is about to expand its operations to all Yorkshire Water's 1.5 million customers, and there will be more charm-school courses.

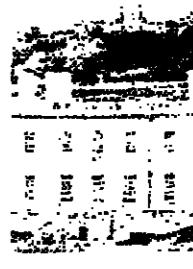
Mr Andrew Dunn, operations manager for Waterlink, said: "Unfortunately the reputation of many plumbers is deserved. There are a lot of guys out there who should be wearing spurs."

"There are a lot of good plumbers, of course, but they are always busy and the chances are, therefore, that if you want one quickly you are going to get the type who will take you to the cleaners and not do a good job. We are out to change that."

Leading article, page 11

## REVIEW

## Furore in The Queen's House



Restoration England or Reproduced England? On Tuesday Inigo Jones's Greenwich masterpiece will be unveiled after its controversial renovation. Nigel Andrew assesses the shock of the new. Page 31

## Flowering Glasgow

Dr Jim Dickson has tracked down some rare treasures in the cemeteries and wastelands of Glasgow: quaking grass, Young's helleborine, and mouse-ear hawkweed sprout from canal bank and college roof. Alastair Gullif meets a botanical adventurer. Page 33

## Uncork with care

The 1969 claret has been much praised, but says Jane MacQuitty, the unwary purchaser could be disappointed. She selects the best: Page 35

## TRAVEL

## Barcelona for pleasure

Robert Elms celebrates the most wickedly attractive streets in Europe. Page 53

## SPORT

## Masters of the game

The Snooker World Championship reaches its final stage this weekend. A full guide and previews of the Rugby League Cup Final and The Littlewoods Cup Final: Pages 45, 47 and 48. Simon Barnes' Sporting Diary: Page 45

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## Pubs plan referred to MMC

By Stephen Leather

TWO Irishmen and a woman convicted of being part of an IRA reconnaissance unit plotting the murder of Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, had their convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Marina Shanahan, aged 24, John McCann, aged 26, and Finbar Cullen, aged 29 — sentenced to 25 years each at Winchester Crown Court in October, 1988 — were freed after the court decided that public comments on the right to silence issue made by Mr King during their trial should have led to a retrial.

Yesterday the result of the appeal brought a mixture of responses with the National Council for Civil Liberties arguing that the case proved the danger of Government plans to attack the right to silence and calling for the reinstatement of the principle of Appeal to the Ulster courts.

The Home Office said compensation for the three, held since their arrest in 1987, would be considered; but Professor Michael Zander, professor of law at the London School of Economics, thought there was no entitlement to payment since the decision had been made on a technicality and not on the issue of guilt.

Yesterday the three were back in custody awaiting expulsion from Britain after the Home Secretary issued exclusion orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Asked for his comment on the judgement yesterday Mr King said: "I don't have any comment on that at all."

The three were arrested in the summer of 1987 after two of them were found near Mr King's estate in Wiltshire.

Police discovered lists of prominent people, cash and other material.

Wiltshire police officers carried out their duties in a dedicated, professional and scrupulous manner."

During the trial defence

counsel claimed the defen-

ts could no longer get a fair hearing. After a fierce debate in the absence of the jury the judge, Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, ruled that the trial should go on. In a rebuke to Mr King he said: "In the context of the case I am trying it would, in my view, have been better, to put it at its lowest, for these comments not to have been made."

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# Search for security

## Youth in Nineties value conformity above rebellion

By Ruth Gledhill

YOUNG people in Britain today are racist, anti-gay lager drinkers who feel alienated from society but are family oriented, according to market research published yesterday.

They are hard-working but not sporty, sexually active and want to get married and have children. They also crave financial security. Bad news for Eurotunnel is that nearly half say they are nervous about using the Channel tunnel.

According to the survey of more than 700 young employed people aged 16 to 24 by Euromonitor, Carrick James Market Research, young people are responding to feelings of alienation with conformity rather than rebellion. The police were perceived as antagonistic, politicians as unconcerned and banks as uninterested.

Seven sub-groups of young people emerged from the study.

The largest group, "Life's a Party" (20 per cent), were lager drinkers from London and the South-east with little ambition. They supported the poll tax, voted Conservative, had low social responsibility and were racist and anti-homosexual.

"The Outsiders" (18 per cent) were heavy drinkers, the heaviest smokers, and did not like healthy food.

"Safety Seekers" (18 per cent) were middle of the road, included more women than men and most came from the Midlands. They were nervous of using the Channel tunnel,

did not like flying and supported the Green Party.

"Authoritarians" (14 per cent) were ambitious anti-smokers who drank gin and vodka. "New Moralists" (14 per cent) were anti-smoking, the heaviest users of deodorants and shower gels, and avoided salt in their food.

"Greying Youths" (8 per cent) aged 24 going on 49, mainly from Yorkshire and Lancashire, worried about their pensions, believed in hard work and were against borrowing money.

Two thirds said smokers did not have a right to smoke and many were scared of going out at night.

"Young Moderates" (8 per cent) reflected the views of the fitness and bought their clothes from catalogues.

Mr Tom Williams, aged 36, Euromonitor consultant, who conducted group interviews, said: "I went to one group of middle-class people from a variety of backgrounds and ended up with three of them trying to sell me life insurance."

Nearly half the young people surveyed agreed that "homosexuals disgust me" and more than a third said there were "too many blacks in Britain".

More than eight out of 10 had at least one sexual partner in the previous 12 months.

One of the most shocking findings, researchers said, was the amount of time spent in public houses and bars by both under-age and legal drinkers who claimed there

was nothing else to do.

The average respondent spent nearly six hours a week in bars, spending £10.32 a week, one fifth of his or her weekly income.

Nearly two-thirds of 16 and 17-year-olds spent time in public houses and more than one in 10 of the male respondents agreed that "my partner often complains about my drinking".

The report said: "For young men, drinking and getting drunk is an important social ritual which imposes a pressure to consume alcohol, a pressure that women do not face, to nearly the same extent." Low-alcohol drinks were not popular.

The 1500-page study, which costs £4,500, is aimed at clients who wish to aim products at an age group that is notoriously difficult to reach.

Mr Adrian Wissreich, aged 33, Euromonitor marketing director, said: "This is an alienated generation. They feel threatened by a number of issues in the adult world. Their reaction is conformity. It means to me that people should listen more to the age group. They seem to be a misunderstood group of people who are not being given the chance to express themselves."

Young Britain: A Survey of Youth Culture in Transition, by Euromonitor and Carrick James Market Research (87-88 Turnmill St, London EC1M 5QU; £4,500)

## Hume in appeal for young homeless

By Ray Clancy

THE Archbishop of Westminster urged the Government yesterday to spend more money to help young homeless people who are in danger of being exposed to drugs and prostitution when they are living on the streets.

Cardinal Basil Hume was speaking at the launch of The Depaul Trust, a programme to help homeless people aged 16 and under, and at the opening by the Princess of Wales of its first hostel in Willesden, north London.

He said that extra money from the Government was channeled towards helping homeless families while young people without homes were often overlooked.

There is a serious and growing shortage of cheap rented accommodation, he said. "I would appeal to persons with power and in the Government to make more available at a rate affordable to those who are so badly in need."

Cardinal Hume told the Princess of Wales that he asked nuns from the Daughters of Charity, which runs a day centre for the homeless, and the Society of St Vincent De Paul to form the trust, because he wanted to do something about the growing numbers of homeless young people in London, estimated to be more than 50,000.

"I am particularly distressed by the increasing number of young people living rough who are in great danger of being exposed to the risks of prostitution and drug addiction. Some of them have never had a real home," he said.

He said that the trust aimed to break "the vicious cycle of deprivation" in which many young people found themselves, by housing them first in a temporary hostel, then moving them to suitable shared rented accommodation. It will also offer advice on jobs and training.

The Princess of Wales was told that the trust hopes to find permanent homes for about 120 people a year. She was shown around the hostel, which has a staff of 10, and spoke with some of the young people living there.

Two of them, Miss Susan Brown, aged 22, and Mr Paul Elyth, aged 23, arrived at King's Cross station from Glasgow two weeks ago with nowhere to go. "If it wasn't for the trust, we would have been sleeping on the street," Miss Brown said. "We have been very lucky and now we are getting help to find a flat and jobs."



## Farmers welcome Brussels deal

By John Young

THE National Farmers' Union yesterday welcomed an agreement reached in Brussels which will give British farmers an extra £500 million in the present financial year.

It is the first piece of good news for a long time for an industry beset by problems.

The deal involves devaluation of the "green pound", the rate at which European Community farm prices are converted to sterling.

Because this only affects trade between EC member states, the effect on domestic food prices is not expected to be significant. British produce will continue to be sold at market prices, although some imported foods may become slightly more expensive.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, estimated yesterday that overall food prices might rise by between 0.1 and 0.15 per cent. The impact on inflation would be "very, very little".

For some years the green pound has been substantially higher than the sterling exchange rate, ostensibly to protect farmers in other EC countries from what was held to be unfair competition from cheap British exports.

The subject has been regularly raised at NFU meetings with ministers. They argued that the gap between the green pound and the sterling exchange rate amounted to a tax on exports and a subsidy on imports.

Green currencies will become a thing of the past with the elimination of trade barriers in the EC by the end of 1992. The European Commission had proposed that they should be phased out in equal stages, one third each year for the next three years. Four days of talks in Luxembourg last month ended in disagreement.

Britain secured a 55 per cent reduction in the gap for arable crops, 38 per cent for milk, 86 per cent for pig meat, 56 per cent for lamb and mutton, and 55 per cent for beef. Consequently farmers will receive up to 11 per cent more for their produce.

• West Germany, Spain and the Netherlands will suffer most from the decision to freeze most prices for the third year running (Peter Guilford writes from Brussels.)

They reluctantly agreed to the package after winning the right for their farmers to receive swifter payment for the products they sell into the Community's surplus stores.



## Manager jailed for £13,000 bank fraud

A BANK manager who preyed on the accounts of sick and elderly customers was yesterday jailed for a year after he admitted embezzling more than £13,000.

Colin Craig, aged 38, forged documents concerning the accounts of four elderly women and stole £10,000. He took the remaining £3,000 from the account of a dead man and told the executor of the estate that the account was closed.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court was told Craig took the money when he was manager of the TSB branch in the city's Marchmont Road, between August 1987 and March 1989. The money has been repaid from Craig's pension fund.

Sheriff Craik told Craig, of the Kingsley Hotel, Ayr: "These are serious and deliberate offences in which you abused a position of trust in which the bank placed you."

• A former finance manager escaped prison yesterday after a court sheriff was told he had repaid half the cash he embezzled from a city hotel.

Mark O'Brien, formerly of Edinburgh, but now of Cirencester, admitted embezzling £10,000 over a three-and-a-half week period, when he worked as finance manager at the Hilton International Hotel, Belford Road, Edinburgh, in early 1989. He is to pay back the rest of the money and was ordered to do 240 hours of community service.

## Peace campaigners to face trial over escape of spy

TWO peace campaigners must stand trial for their alleged roles in the escape from prison of the spy George Blake after a Central Criminal Court ruling yesterday.

Mr Justice Macpherson rejected the argument of Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle that to prosecute them nearly 24 years after the escape and 19 years after they were implicated and suspected was "unfair, oppressive and an abuse of process".

The judge said that the two had "courted prosecution" by publishing a book, *The Blake Escape, How We Freed George Blake and Why*, last year.

Mr Julian Bevan, for the Crown, had said that he gave the first firm evidence of their helping Blake to escape from Wormwood Scrubs prison and to flee Britain. Announcing his ruling after

two days of legal argument, the judge said: "Justice and fairness are not one-sided. Those who sympathise with these two men now facing trial should bear that in mind."

He had, because of the nature and seriousness of the alleged offences, established that it was fair, right and just that this case proceed. The case would go before a jury next week, he said.

Mr Pottle, aged 51, of Crouch End, north London, and Mr Randle, aged 56, of Bradford, face trial next week on charges of aiding Blake's escape in 1966, which carries a maximum five-year sentence, and of conspiring with the late Sean Bourke to harbour and assist Blake, each of which carries a two-year sentence.

The judge said that it would be wrong if the alleged offences were considered "any-

thing other than serious" if they were about helping a man serving a short sentence to escape rather than "the freeing of a notorious traitor".

Blake, a double agent, pleaded guilty in 1961 to spying for the Soviet Union and was jailed for 42 years.

In 1966, Blake – now 67 and living in Moscow – escaped from prison helped by Bourke. According to their own book, Mr Pottle and Mr Randle, who had met Blake in prison, hid him.

Counsel for both men had argued that, in 1970, when Bourke published a book on the escape, he gave enough clues for police to identify Mr Pottle and Mr Randle, but nothing was done.

The Crown had said that police did not interview them because they believed they were political activists who would not answer questions.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, for Mr Randle, and Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for Mr Pottle, argued that "a policy decision" had been taken in 1970 not to prosecute them.

They unsuccessfully asked to see internal police documents written in 1970 and which they claimed might support their argument.

Yesterday, the judge upheld a claim by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, of "public interest immunity" for the documents.

The judge said neither man had been told that he would not be prosecuted.

The defence is to seek leave to appeal against the ruling.

## Police chief cleared

THE retiring Chief Constable of South Yorkshire has been cleared of complaints over his remarks that drunken football fans may have helped to cause the Hillsborough disaster.

The allegations against Mr Peter Wright, who leaves his job next Tuesday, were made in three formal complaints by the fathers of four of the 96 fans crushed to death. An investigation into Mr Wright's comments in a local newspaper was carried out by Mr Leslie Sharp, the Chief Constable of Cumbria, on behalf

of the Police Complaints Authority.

Members of South Yorkshire Police Authority met in private yesterday to discuss a 52-page report on the findings of the investigation. After the meeting, Mr Wright did not attend, a police authority spokesman said that the investigation had cleared Mr Wright.

The investigation concluded that Mr Wright had not committed any criminal or disciplinary offence. Mr Wright refused to comment.

The defence is to seek leave to appeal against the ruling.

## Buyers flock to buy a most undes. res.

By Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

THE estate agents advised potential buyers of the derelict Brickyard Cottage in the village of Besithorpe on the borders of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire to take a torch and tread carefully on the dilapidated staircase.

It was in a "terrible state of disrepair, in a shambolic state", Mr Robert Benbow, of William H Brown the estate agents admitted, no doubt aware that new government rules on the misdescription of properties are in the pipeline.

The 150-year-old cottage was sold at auction at Newark, Nottinghamshire, this week for £216,000, far in excess of

the figure of about £100,000 expected by Mr Benbow, who said that it would need another £100,000 spending on it to make it habitable.

Despite the cottage's poor state, some 100 prospective buyers took their torches to look at it, and an anonymous local businessman fought off five other bidders to make the purchase. "In my experience I have never taken so many bids on one property", Mr Benbow said.

"We were staggered by the final price. It was totally derelict. There are no services at all and not even any glass in the windows. The only thing the place has got is fresh air, and plenty of it. It seems the gentleman who lived there was something of a recluse and did not

bother to maintain it. He must have taken a bucket to a nearby farm to get the water he needed."

Linked to the main Newark to Gainsborough road by an earth track, the cottage stands in 21 acres of woodland, pasture and arable land, and has been empty for more than six months since the death of the former owner. He left no immediate family, and the property was auctioned at the request of distant relatives.

Mr Benbow said: "I think the attraction must have been the land. This cottage is something of a rare bird, for most cottages like this are offered with only two or three acres. Any other land is usually sold to neighbouring farms."

On 6 May London's price comparisons, 01 goes 01, 01 goes 071 or 081 for inter and 081 for outer London. Acton, in west London, is in the 081 code area and Mayfair, in central London, is in the 01 code area.

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In Sunday's paper you'll find a table showing how to convert 01 codes to new 071 and 081 codes. The table is also available on BBC1 CEEFAX pages 570 and 571. Our leaflet also shows how to convert 0 codes to the new 071 and 081 codes. If you'd like to go or have any queries, call us free on our Helpline number: 0800 876 876, from 7pm to 7pm, seven days a week.

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# Irish trio's convictions quashed on 'right of silence'

By Stewart Teader  
Crime Correspondent

**CONVICTIONS** against two young Irishmen and a woman for plotting to kill Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, were overturned by the Court of Appeal yesterday because of remarks made by Mr King during the trial two years ago.

Martina Shanahan, aged 24, John Cullen, aged 26, and Finbar Cullen, aged 29, were freed from 25-year prison sentences after the court ruled that the trial judge in 1988 should have ordered their retrial after widely-publicized remarks by Mr King attacking the use of the right to silence by terrorist prisoners.

As the judgement, at the Central Criminal Court, ended there were cheers in the public gallery. McCann gave a clenched-fist salute and said: "It is brilliant, brilliant. Justice has been done."

The case began in August 1987 when Mr King's daughter saw Cullen and Shanahan sitting on a wall near the minister's home. They led police to a campsite where McCann was held.

At the trial a year later at Winchester Crown Court the jury was told police found a list of 19 assassination targets, including prominent political, judicial and military figures. Against four names were details of movements of vehicles owned by them, their families and police bodyguards. One of the four was King.

The jury was told police had found a balaclava hood, high-powered binoculars, forged driving licences, a radio, a magazine article on how to become an expert sniper, £4,500 in cash and an account book with £11,400.

Cullen was said to have booked a room at a Blackpool hotel a few weeks before the Conservative Party conference in 1987. All three

were sentenced on October 28 after conviction by a jury which deliberated for 15 hours.

In the reserve judgement yesterday, Lord Justice Beldam, sitting with Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Fennell, said that on October 20, 1988, in a written answer to Parliament, the Home Secretary had announced proposed legislation as soon as he had received the report of the working party on an accused person's right to silence.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, had concluded that a strong case could be made for changing the law so that inferences could be drawn from a failure to answer questions put to a suspect by police and added that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had reached a similar conclusion.

"As could easily have been foreseen on so controversial a matter, the media were immedi-

ately and intensely interested," the appeal judge said. A press conference was arranged and ITV news carried the item heading: "King says suspected terrorists will no longer have the right to silence."

Mr King was shown forcefully expressing the view that the measures were aimed at people who remained silent, although they might have been expected by any fair-minded person to have been able to explain their behaviour. The BBC Six o'Clock News also led with the item.

The item was carried on Channel 4 at 7pm. There was an interview with Lord Denning, whose reputation and influence on the subject of the law were unique. "For some lawyers and most laymen his pronouncements represent his law," Lord Justice Beldam said.

On Channel 4 Mr King said that to remove the right of silence

would help the conviction of guilty men. He said one terrorist technique was to train members never to answer any questions. "It is a sustained attack to undermine or take advantage of what is the basic right of silence and these are limited measures which I think will help in the prosecution of guilty men."

Lord Justice Beldam said other commentaries and interviews were carried on the nine o'clock news and *News at Ten*, and later still on *Newsnight*. He said that Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, the trial judge, did not have the opportunity to see the recordings of the television broadcasts which the appeal judges had seen.

"We are satisfied that if the judge had seen them he would not have discounted the risk of prejudice to the extent that he did and would have been bound to be less confident that it could be eliminated by a direction to the jury,"

Lord Justice Beldam said. The statements broadcast were of general application but they had a particular relevance to the trial of the accused. Two of them had declined to answer questions after their arrest and all of them had elected not to give evidence and thus to maintain their right to silence. The allegations against them were that they were part of a terrorist organization and that they had conspired to murder Mr King and others unknown.

"The coincidence that the remarks should have been made when the trial of the applicants had reached such a critical stage and should have been made by the minister who was alleged to have been the victim of the proposed conspiracy would not, in our view, enhance the perception that justice was seen to be done," Lord Justice Beldam said.

All felt that lawyers for the three had not overstated the impression

that "the Minister of State for Northern Ireland and a senior and greatly revered figure, who had held very high judicial office, were expressing in strong terms the fact that in terrorist cases a failure to answer questions or to give evidence was tantamount to guilt".

"In the final analysis we are left with the definite impression that the impact which the statements in the television interviews may well have had on the fairness of the trial could not be overcome by any direction to the jury and that the only way in which justice could be done and be obviously seen to be done was by discharging the jury and ordering a retrial."

The trial judge had regarded it as important that the trial, which had continued for some time, should come properly to its close. Lord Justice Beldam said: "It is difficult to see what injustice the Crown would have suffered if a retrial had been ordered."

## Governor of riot jail says he was simply following orders

By Peter Davenport

**MR BRENDAN O'FRIEL**, the governor of Strangeways, who has been criticized for failing to use force to end the siege earlier, said yesterday he had simply been obeying orders.

He was asked about events on the second day of the disturbances when 500 prison staff in full riot gear were suddenly stood down as they prepared to storm the prison.

Witnesses who were with Mr O'Friel at the time said that three minutes before the assault was scheduled to begin, a telephone call was received from the head office of the Prison Service in London, and the assault was called off. Officials of the Prison Officers' Association have said that the call came from Mr Brian Emes, deputy director-general of the service.

Mr O'Friel declined yesterday to make a specific response, saying it would be part of his evidence to the inquiry into the riot by Lord Justice Woolf, who yesterday visited Strangeways to talk to Mr O'Friel and to staff as well as to inspect the damage.

Mr O'Friel said, however: "Major decisions about the conduct and strategy of this affair clearly are matters that have been dealt with further up the line. I am in a command structure and I report, not directly to the deputy director-general but to my regional director and, through him to the deputy director-general. If I am given instructions down the line in an operational situation, I obey them, even if I look poleaxed at the time."

This was a reference to remarks made by Mrs Mary Stewart, deputy chairman of the board of visitors at Strangeways, who said that Mr O'Friel looked "poleaxed" after receiving the telephone call in the early hours of April 2.

Mr O'Friel, who has taken only one day off in the last 27, appeared more relaxed yesterday. He said the operation to end the siege without loss of life was an enormous success and a tribute to the skills of his staff and the prison service. He also offered an explanation for persistent reports of deaths during the initial rioting. He

said that some Rule 43 prisoners, sexual offenders and informers, who had been beaten by other inmates, had been forced to be dead to escape further punishment.

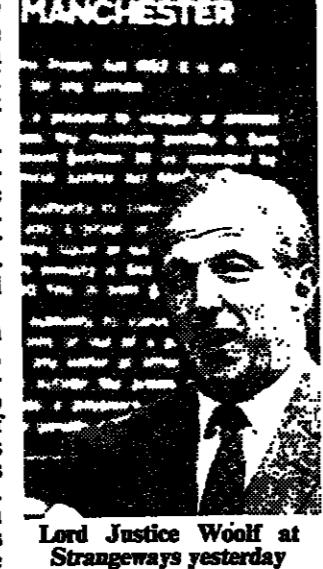
Mr O'Friel was optimistic about the future of his prison. "Strangeways is open. Rioters do not shut Strangeways. It will rise from the ashes and the prison service will be better for the lessons that have been learnt."

In spite of the destruction, there were cells and other sections, including the new hospital and reception area, that were in use and able to house prisoners, he said. Yesterday, there were 18 men serving their sentences in the prison.

Mr O'Friel, who became chairman of the Prison Governors' Association during the siege, explained the five phases of the strategy to handle the disturbances.

The first task soon after the riot began in the chapel on Sunday, April 1, when 1,500 rampaging inmates were confronted by only 200 staff, was containment and the prevention of any escape. As part of this, and thanks to the courage and skill of officers, most Rule 43 inmates, those most under threat from other prisoners, were removed. Twenty-five others held in segregation, in-

### H.M. PRISON MANCHESTER



Lord Justice Woolf at Strangeways yesterday

cluding those most seriously injured by inmates, were rescued by the "heros" of staff. Within 18 hours, 1,200 prisoners had been moved out.

Phase two began that evening with a counter-attack to retake sections of the prison, including the kitchens and their vital food supplies.

Phase three involved negotiations. This phase lasted from April 3 to April 13, during which time 110 prisoners were talked down from the roof.

The fourth phase was the siege, which lasted from April 13 to Sunday, April 22. It was, Mr O'Friel said, "treacherous" with little obvious result. It involved various tactics to make the prisoners uncomfortable including noise, light and the tempting smell of food being cooked by staff deliberately close to the barricades.

Phase five, which covered the final three days, was what Mr O'Friel called the "offensive". A vital part of its success was the capture of Alan Lord, a 29-year-old convicted murderer and a ringleader of the riot.

In the final push, beginning at 9 am on Wednesday, teams of control and restraint officers seized the prison within 23 minutes. They came "within a whisker" of grabbing the last five inmates before they scrambled onto the roof for their last hours of defiance.

Mr O'Friel said that a factor in the cause of the riot had been a rise in prisoner numbers to 1,650 in the days before the disturbances, which had meant many prisoners reverting to sharing three to a cell after spending the winter months only two to a cell.

He also disclosed that he had not been in the prison when the siege ended. He had gone home two hours earlier for a much-needed break and, with his wife, watched the events unfold on television.

"My reaction was one of relief," he said. "Once they were down, I took the phone off the hook and went for a walk with my wife. When we came back, she lit our Easter candle. We had missed Easter and it was a kind of signal of what was going to happen now at Strangeways."

## Warning on reforms plan

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

A PLANNED reform of the prison service's management structure could leave jails "highly exposed" in the event of further disorder, prison governors told the Home Office yesterday.

The governors reiterated their demands that key elements of the plan should be scrapped, saying that the way governors had contained the recent wave of jail riots underlined the basic strength of the existing structure. Failing this, they said, reorganization should be postponed for a year to give governors time to readjust to the changes.

The demands were made at a meeting in Rugby, Warwickshire, yesterday between the prison department and the

"If this goes ahead, gov-



## Councils ordered to erase personal data gleaned from poll tax forms

By Tom Giles

**ORDERS** were issued against 22 local authorities yesterday requiring them to erase "excessive and irrelevant" personal information gained from poll tax canvass forms and stored on computer.

Mr Eric Howe, the Data Protection Registrar, said he had taken the action under the Data Protection Act after an examination of all canvass forms issued by the 403 Community Charge Registration Officers in England and Wales.

He judged that 22 of the registration officers held personal data either on individuals' dates of birth or the type of property they occupied that went beyond "the limited circumstances in which these details are required".

However, a legal spokeswoman for the registrar's office said Mr Howe was not empowered to change poll tax canvass forms and could only ensure that the information they uncovered was erased from computer. She added: "Our powers are clearly limited. It's a matter of law that the Data Protection Act covers computer records and not manual records — which is why nobody has to do another census."

Ms Madeline Colvin, of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said she welcomed the registrar's action but added that the council would support any test case relating to sensitive information still being manually retained.

"We have been told by a QC that individuals could successfully take to court those registration officers who continue to hold sensitive personal information manually. He said that under the poll tax statutes they were not entitled to ask the question relating to that information in the first

place." She added that some poll-tax forms were breaching the Data Protection Act because the Government had only given guidance on their contents rather than providing a single set form. Last year, the National Council for Civil Liberties successfully appealed to the data registrar over Trafford Borough Council's request on poll-tax canvass forms for details of personal relationships.

Yesterday's official statement, issued by the registrar's office added: "The registrar has taken action for breaches of the fourth data protection principle, which requires personal data to be relevant and not excessive for the purpose for which they are held."

The registration officers have 28 days to appeal to a data protection tribunal before either enforcement notices or refusal notices rejecting their applications to register information, take effect.

Those councils facing re-

most had responded "positively" to the notices and that he had carefully considered their arguments. However, he added: "I have altered my views in some respects but I still believe it necessary to take formal action in these 22 cases."

The data registrar has accepted that dates of birth can be requested on forms when two people with the same name live at the same address, and when it is necessary to identify people who would be turning 18 during registration.

It will also be permissible for identifying 18-year-olds who are still at school and whose parents are claiming benefit, and those aged 18 or 19 who are in further education. Councils will also be allowed to set a "marker" birth-date against pensioners.

The registrar added that the type of property could only be requested if it was a caravan or when it formed part of the address.

## Capped council fights on

By Ray Clancy

ONE of the councils which has been community charge capped has accepted the cut in its spending but will continue with legal action challenging the criteria used by the Government.

Councillors in the London Borough of Camden are expected to vote next Tuesday for a reduction in the poll tax of £34 a head to £500 in line with the Government's £4.4 million cut in its budget.

The Labour council has been able to comply with the capping because it has made more money than expected on council house sales and has

money needed to meet the cap would have been spent on education. The council is continuing with the legal action because it has been advised that being capped this year could mean automatic caps next year.

• The London Borough of Greenwich is considering taking legal action against Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, over an advertisement in *The Times* last week which claimed "Labour are actively seeking to make your community charge as high as they can get away with".

**JP training plea** Major recruitment and training improvements for justices of the peace have been called for by the Scottish Consumer Council after a study of appointment and training systems. The SCC said it is essential JPs who sit at District Court hearings represent areas they serve.

**\$100,000 raid** Four armed raiders escaped with cigarettes and alcohol worth about £100,000 in a raid on a freight train as it pulled into Kilkenny, Irish Republic, yesterday. Four Irish Rail staff were locked in a wagon.

**Labour choice** Northumbria's Euro MP, Dr Gordon Adam, has been selected as Labour's candidate to challenge Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Berwick-upon-Tweed MP, at the next general election. Dr Adam twice contested the seat in the early 1970s before going to Europe.

**Routes** The Times' overseas services: Australia \$2.75; Belgium \$1.75; France \$2.25; Germany DM 3.80; Ireland £1.50; Italy £1.50; Japan Y100; New Zealand \$1.50; Norway Kr 25; Sweden Kr 25; Switzerland Fr 2.25; United States \$2.25; United Kingdom £1.25; Yugoslavia D 100.

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SHIPPING FACILITIES AVAILABLE

## Help sought as charter line collapses

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

AIRLINES around the world were last night being asked to take over three modern aircraft and their crews to enable more than 22,000 British passengers to visit their friends and relatives in Canada after the sudden collapse of an apparently successful charter airline.

Odyssey International, which had been cashing in on the boom in "seat only" flights to and from Canada, called in the receiver yesterday after it could no longer support its debts.

At least 22,000 seats had been sold on Odyssey flights through Unjet, Intasun and Trans-Canadian from 12 British airports and hopes were high that new operators could be found. "We are

hopeful that we will be able to find an airline which can take over the flights almost immediately," Mr John Jones of Unjet said.

Odyssey International, which is part of Soundair Corporation, of Canada, had deliberately chosen to aim for the top end of the market and provided extremely high in-flight service. It had been voted second only to British Airways First Class in an international competition for the quality of its meals.

# School tests for pupils of 11 cut in three fields

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A FURTHER scaling down of the National Curriculum was signalled yesterday when Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that he was dropping plans for formal testing of 11-year-olds in some subjects.

Only a fortnight after the proposals to test seven-year-olds in technology, history and geography were abandoned, Mr MacGregor said that 11-year-olds would be exempted from national tests in the same subjects. The move marks the minister's determination to ease the burden of government education reforms.

Mr MacGregor told members of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association (AMMA) in Norwich that teachers would be free to devise their own methods for assessing 11-year-olds in the three subjects. He said, however, that nationally-set standard assessment tasks would be used to test pupils in the three subjects at age 14.

"This is not a climb-down," he said. "It is just part of a sensible process of decision-taking" in what appeared to be an endorsement of the Prime Minister's recently expressed concern that the new curriculum would over-burden

the teaching profession.

The changes being announced by Mr MacGregor piece-meal are now so substantial that there is almost a case for a new White Paper on them. He has rejected central plans of the reforms as proposed by Kenneth Baker and Mrs Thatcher in 1988 by making a series of changes on the hoof, very much as a defensive reaction to the pressures.

Mr Straw is to press for a Commons statement to clarify the "growing confusion" about the new curriculum which was causing alarm in schools.

• The Court of Appeal reserved judgement yesterday on an attempt by Avon County Council to win back control of Beechen Cliff comprehensive school in Bath, which Mr MacGregor has allowed to "opt out".

The council wants the court to overturn Mr MacGregor's decision to allow the school to become grant-maintained. The school's change in status took effect on Monday. The case is opposed by Mr MacGregor and by Mr Roy Ludlow, the school's headmaster, and its governors.

## Two 'royal' jewel thieves jailed

TWO members of a gang of jewel thieves who raided quality London shops by pretending to be foreign royalty were jailed by Knightsbridge Crown Court yesterday.

Two of them posed as a Nigerian prince and princess and the rest as their entourage. The team pulled up outside the shops in a chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce.

At Knightsbridge last May, the thieves, dressed in flowing tribal robes, selected jewellery worth £140,000 and invited staff to put it into a presentation box. As one of the gang created a diversion, another switched the box for an identical one they had brought into the shop.

Mr Peter Clarke, for the prosecution, said: "They asked the shop to keep the box, as they couldn't pay for it at that moment but would return later to pick it up. The team calmly left the shop with the real box of jewellery."

When the jewellers opened the duplicate they found it was filled with vegetables.

## Mercouri seeks art safeguard

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

MELINA Mercouri, the fiery Greek film star and former minister of culture who has repeatedly called for the British Museum to return the Elgin Marbles to Greece, has entered the international debate on the traffic of works of art and heritage.

Writing in the Arts Council's magazine *The Insider*, Miss Mercouri calls for the illicit traffic of works of art can be prevented in a Europe without customs barriers and how objects that are put on sale in one EC state, but have been transported illegally from another, can be withheld from sale.

"Astronomical prices and the diminishing purchasing power of museums and galleries make it increasingly difficult for countries to retain the very objects their individual legislation was designed to protect," Miss Mercouri



Mr Stanley Gardner, a classic car specialist, inspecting a 1935 Mercedes Cabriolet, one of 100 cars to be auctioned today at Dunston Hall, near Norwich. Behind him is a 1933 Rolls-Royce Phantom. The hall and five acres of land will be auctioned on Monday

## Car bomb kills driver as Ulster tension grows

By Bob Rodwell

AS THOUSANDS of police and troops intensified their security in Northern Ireland yesterday in response to what senior commanders see as an increased threat of IRA outrages, a man died in a booby-trap bombing and the RUC put on display the contents of terrorist bomb factory uncovered during the early hours.

Mr Kenneth Graham, aged 37, the 23rd fatal victim of Ulster terrorism this year, was driving away from his home outside the fishing port of Kilkeel, Co Down, when a bomb underneath his BMW car exploded. He was pulled from the wreckage alive, but died shortly after reaching hospital at Newry.

Mr Graham, a father of two, was a partner in his family's building and civil engineering firm. He had no connection with the security forces, but the firm is thought to have been made a target by IRA terrorists as part of their campaign against building contractors and other people they believe do business with the Army and the police.

Mr Eddie McGrady, SDLP MP for Down South, said that

Mr Graham was a prominent member of the local community, widely held in esteem, who had given employment to many people.

He said: "Words start leaving you when you are hit by such tragedy on a virtually weekly basis. All I can do is condemn such attacks and ask people to ensure the perpetrators are caught."

Mr Drew Nelson, a local Unionist councillor, said that the Irish Republic's govern-

ment could not escape its share of responsibility. The murder campaign would continue as long as it offered the IRA a safe haven.

A few hours earlier, police and troops had raided a house in the decrepit Derrybeg estate at Newry, a Roman Catholic residential area heavily under the IRA's thumb. They discovered more than half a ton of fertilizer and drums of diesel oil, both ingredients in home-made explosives; Semtex plastic high explosive; volatile nitro-benzene; a rifle, a pistol and masks. The house was unoccupied, but the find, the third big arms discovery this week, is taken as evidence for the RUC's belief that the IRA is embarked on increasing violence.

The police issued a warning on Thursday and appealed for vigilance by the public. They said that a higher level of police and army activity could be expected, with inevitable disruption, for which the Provisionals should be blamed.

The signs were evident in Belfast yesterday, with the closing of part of Chichester Street between the High Court and Belfast Magistrates' Court buildings, the "targets" for an elaborate hoan van bomb earlier this week. Extra vehicle checkpoints and "snap" roadblocks were reported throughout the province.

Motorists were delayed for up to 45 minutes in passing the permanent checkpoint on the main road between Belfast and its international airport, Aldergrove.

The Northern Ireland Police Federation, which represents all RUC ranks up to chief

inspector, appealed to members to exercise particular caution over their safety at home.

That followed the shooting dead in recent weeks of two officers in their homes on the outskirts of Armagh, and the interception last week of two men in the same neighbourhood, one of whom was shot dead by an army patrol.

The difficulty is less obvious to me in the case of a peregrine falcon; the peregrine falcon is of the essence in this charge."

Mr Roger Broad, a

conservation officer with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said the falcon had been released into the wild because he believed it to be in the bird's best interest.

The trial continues next week.

• Two West Germans, Lois Wittemann and Helmar were remanded in custody for a week by magistrates in Dover, Kent, accused of trying to export illegally 12 peregrine falcon eggs worth up to £120,000.

## Two deny taking peregrine falcon

By Kerry Gill

A RAILWAY worker became suspicious when he saw a Red Star parcel suddenly begin to display signs of life. The parcel, which had arrived overnight at Queen Street station, Glasgow, contained a live peregrine falcon. Oban sheriff court was told yesterday.

The box was on its way by train from Oban in Scotland to Treherbert, Wales, it was stated when two men were accused under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 of taking and being in possession of the falcon, a protected species.

Christopher Ford, aged 38, of Carradale, Mull of Kintyre, a bird scater at RAF Macrahanish air base, and Robert Griffiths, aged 26, an engineer of Gelli, Rhondda, deny the charges.

As Mr John Sutherland, the railway worker, spoke, solicitors for the defence interrupted to ask why the bird was not to be produced as evidence. Mr Rubin Murdalan, the procurator fiscal, said there had been cases in which similar evidence was not produced because it was impractical and inconvenient to do so.

He cited the case of a man accused of stealing a Hereford bull. The court waived bringing the live bull into court.

Sheriff Colin McKay said he could see it would be problematic to produce a bull.

"The difficulty is less obvious to me in the case of a peregrine falcon; the peregrine falcon is of the essence in this charge."

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# TIME'S RUINING OUT FOR THE SEAS AROUND BRITAIN

The seas around Britain are under threat. A lethal combination of pollution and over-fishing is turning the North Sea into another Dead Sea.

There have already been alarming drops in the numbers of seals and porpoises and sea birds are failing to breed for want of food. Developments planned on over half of Britain's estuaries will only add to the death toll. Governments are beginning to take action, but too slowly.

WWF is the only environmental group carrying out practical conservation work in all the countries bordering the North Sea. And we are urging all European governments to act in a united way to save the North Sea before it's too late.

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# Soul-searching in Bradford over the cultural divide

By Richard West

THE burning of *The Satanic Verses* in front of the town hall last February has led to much soul-searching and rethinking in Bradford's Asian community and among the whites. It brought home that what had been called the racial problem was not a matter of colour but of culture.

The furore over the Rushdie book was about the same principle as the earlier argument over the Bradford headmaster, Ray Honeyford, who was dismissed for saying English children were under a disadvantage in largely immigrant schools. He was called "ethno-centric" or even "racist" by left-wing members of Bradford education committee.

This month, in another Yorkshire city, a mother was given the right to remove her daughter from a mainly immigrant school where the child was learning nursery rhymes in Hindi. She had the support of Asian and white parents but the decision was denounced by the Commission for Racial Equality as a possible "charter for racists".

The commission fails to recognize that many Asians do not want to integrate with the whites in a society which is alien to its culture and may be offensive to its religious beliefs. Many Muslims would like Koranic teaching and discipline. Many supported Mr Honeyford.

As a result of the Rushdie affair, many Bradford Asians have switched their allegiance from Labour to the Conserv-

## Decisive Asian vote

THE Conservatives have been in control of Bradford council for the last 18 months. Labour needs four net gains to recapture the city, which, under the Conservatives has been called the "Wandsworth of the North". The Conservatives hold 46 seats. Labour 42 and the Liberal Democrats two.

A third of the council's 90 seats are up for election next Thursday, when two by-elections are being held. The Conservatives are defending 13 seats, one of which is held

by an Asian Labour councillor who defected to the Conservatives in January.

The city has a large middle-class population in the suburbs and in some outlying rural areas. It is also home to one of the largest Asian communities outside London. Asian voters — more than 30,000 of them — could prove decisive in the election battle. Traditionally, they have voted Labour, but many of them were angered by the party's stance on the Rushdie affair.

## Search for cause of bird deaths

THE RSPCA and scientists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods are trying to establish the cause of death of dozens of sea birds whose emaciated bodies have been found on beaches in Cornwall (Nick Nuttall writes).

Guillemots and razorbills have been found dead on a 10-mile stretch between Newquay and Portreath over the past few days. Mr Les Sutton, the RSPCA's county chief inspector, said the birds' condition suggested they had stopped eating before their deaths. Birds found alive had soon died.

There was no evidence that they had suffered oil contamination or had been caught in nets.

### Tyre charges

Cariston Gibbard and Stephen Gilmartin, company directors of BNI Industries of Swineshead, Lincolnshire, were sent for Crown Court trial by magistrates at Grays, Essex, accused of trying to export illegally 440 tyres for Iranian jet fighters.

### First woman

Miss Tracie Moore, aged 18, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, has signed up to become the Army's first woman motor mechanic.

### Cockle ban

Cockle fishing on the Wash is to be banned temporarily for the first time in living memory. Stocks, hit by winter storms, are very low.

### Asylum on show

The Lawn Hospital, a 19th-century lunatic hospital in Nottingham, is to be converted into a leisure centre, with an exhibition including straitjackets and padded cells.

Priestley was certainly ethnocentric, especially in his attitude to Miss Murphy's fellow countrymen. He wrote 55 years ago in his *English Journey*: "If we do have an Irish Republic as our neighbour and it is found possible to return her exiled citizens, what a grand clearance there will be in all the Western ports, from the Clyde to Cardiff, what a fine exit of ignorance and dirt and drunkenness and disease."

Yet Priestley regarded himself as a socialist and progressive thinker. For all their undoubted "ethno-centrism", Bradford people accept the Asians as they accepted Jewish refugees from the pogroms of Russia and Germany in the 19th century.

You can have a permissive society or a multi-racial society. You cannot have both. Salman Rushdie advanced the theory that Britain had brought in immigrants so she could have a servile class on which to vent feelings of racial superiority. That was not how it seemed to Bradford people during the 1950s, when immigrants started to come to work in the wool mills.

The public was never asked if it wanted immigrants. They came after the British Government in 1947 agreed that citizens of the newly-independent India and Pakistan should have a right to enter.

In her fine book *Tales from Two Cities*, on immigrant groups in Bradford and Birmingham, Dervla Murphy calls Ray Honeyford "someone whose ethno-centrism operates unrecognized by himself (and many others) and influences many of his decisions and reactions".

But is "ethno-centrism" really so great a crime? That famous Bradford man J B Priestley regarded himself as a socialist and progressive thinker. For all their undoubted "ethno-centrism", Bradford people accept the Asians as they accepted Jewish refugees from the pogroms of Russia and Germany in the 19th century.

To say that is not to be "racist", if indeed that term has any meaning. Fifty years ago, in J B Priestley's time, it was simply accepted as common sense that people wished to live with their own kind.

Three years ago, Salman Rushdie condemned the television series *The Jewel in the Crown* by saying that it expressed nostalgia for the British empire in India. Or perhaps it expressed nostalgia not so much for the British Raj but the sort of country that England itself used to be.

Paradoxically, one of the most eloquent apologists for that old England is Nirad Chaudhuri, the 92-year-old Bengali author and broadcaster. In his last book *They Hand, Great Anarch!* Mr Chaudhuri says that even he, in 1947, had not predicted that as a result of independence, millions of people would leave the three states of the sub-continent to live in England, making her "the Jewel in the Crown of India".

In his first live radio interview since he went into hiding 14 months ago he said: "I am not a lawyer, but it seems to me that people have been prosecuted for incitement in the past on less grounds than this. It seems to me that there has been no prosecution. I am told that there is insufficient evidence. I must say I am a little sceptical.

"I see what everyone else has seen on television and I find it hard to believe that that is not sufficient evidence."

The author, interviewed by telephone on Radio 4's *Today* programme, said he hoped his life in hiding was not a "permanent condition".

"I'm not sure what the Iranians want to hear. I wrote a book quite legitimately, that was published quite legitimately, and it is not really for the person who is the object of an attack to solve the problem. The people who are attacking me have to have the business of solving the problem."

His words prompted an immediate response from the Muslim community. Dr Khalid Siddiqui, director of Britain's Muslim Institute, whose remarks last year were examined by the court, said: "I am who I am and I wish to continue to be a writer. I wish to continue to be myself. The idea of becoming somebody else in Paraguay is completely unattractive, that is for defeated dictators not for working novelists."

Mr Rushdie also gave details of his life in a virtual prison. "The worst about it is not being able to do things that everybody else would take for granted such as walking down the street. Writers are, I suppose, fortunate in that the condition of a writer is solitude. But normally at the end of a day of work you can leave the room and go and see other people. The problem is that when that is withdrawn there is no doubt that it is a very difficult situation, but I do not intend to be defeated by it.

"I do whatever you might do if your life were confined to the interior of a house."

He said that he had dismissed the idea of making a new life for himself elsewhere. "I am who I am and I wish to continue to be a writer. I wish to continue to be myself. The idea of becoming somebody else in Paraguay is completely unattractive, that is for defeated dictators not for working novelists."

One deal involved the stallion Gilt of Gold, sired by Mill Reef, which finished second to Shergar in the 1981 Derby at Epsom. In 1982, Mr Rowe bought 35 shares in Gilt of Gold for £2.25 million, and sold 30 of the shares to syndicates for £2.5 million.

Mr Rowe had been able to fend off accountants and Customs men by never keeping written records of sales. "No one had set up a bloodstock empire. Mr Rowe set up a company called Sugar Properties Ltd, Derbyshire Wood Stud, as the British arm and made deals, including million pound deals with American companies, on their behalf.

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# UK warning of civil war deterred US on Lithuania

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

BRITISH warnings about the prospect of a Soviet civil war have played a key role in US reluctance to help Lithuania. A consolidation of CIA and MI6 intelligence assessments, reinforced by a top-level inter-service meeting in Washington in the past few days, has resulted in an analysis of extreme gloom about President Gorbachov's prospects of holding the Soviet Union together without the increasing use of armed force.

Mr Percy Cradock, the Prime Minister's top foreign policy adviser, who has responsibilities for intelligence co-ordination in Downing Street, left the United States on Thursday night. Other senior British officials have also been involved in discussions, described as "as close as you would expect at this critical time".

A senior US Administration source confirmed this week that allied concern about the fragility of the Soviet Union was an important factor in President Bush's surprise decision against imposing economic sanctions on Moscow in retaliation for the Lithuanian blockade.

Senior congressional leaders concerned at the apparent US weakness, have been told privately that "the stakes are very, very high". As one official put it: "Once you play your card in the current circumstances, you may unleash a dynamic that you cannot control".

The Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, by far the most influential voice in American foreign policy, has told senior Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill that the prospect of civil strife is an inescapable part of US decision-making. The seriousness of the Bush Administration's warning explains the high degree of official consensus in Washington on Lithuanian policy.

Mr Baker's hard line, first signalled in congressional testimony last week, is considered critical. Although an instinctive diplomat and pragmatist, he was apparently much influenced by the slowdown in Soviet negotiations on conventional arms reductions in Europe, and by the strong vote against Moscow in the Russian parts of the Ukraine in the recent elections.

Those on the right who would normally be arguing the

## Gorbachov denies royalty profits

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

CONTINUING his mission to spread the gospel of economic reform to the Urals and reassure Soviet workers scared by predictions of soaring prices and unemployment, President Gorbachov yesterday travelled from the city of Sverdlovsk to the defence and engineering centre of Nizhni Tagil where he had been transferred to the Soviet Communist Party which had distributed them to a selection of causes. The book, *Pervotroika*, he said, had earned more than a million roubles of which 350,000 roubles had gone to a children's hospital in Irkutsk, 100,000 to a Russian children's clinic for sick babies of which Mrs Raisa Gorbachov was a trustee, 50,000 had gone to the Soviet Culture Fund, 200,000 to a monument, 150,000 to the Armenian earthquake appeal and 50,000 to refugees from the violence in Azerbaijan.

By this, the third day of the President's tour, however, the trip had assumed a more personal character. In question-and-answer sessions with Urals workers, the President had become a popular spokesman for a private housing market, he had denied that the royalties from his book *Pervotroika* were deposited in a Swiss bank account, and he described Mr Boris Yeltsin, who could soon become a serious rival again, as "a played-out record" with no political future.

The question and answer about Mr Yeltsin, a former first secretary of Sverdlovsk who was elected the Sverdlovsk deputy to the Russian Federation parliament by a big majority last month, was clearly an attempt by President Gorbachov to set the record straight — as he sees it — before a doubting audience.

"What does Mr Yeltsin contribute?" Mr Gorbachov asked rhetorically. "A large measure of criticism — from which I conclude that his potential as a politician is not very great."

He went on to describe Mr Yeltsin's political programme as an "old, played-out record" although he conceded that some of his criticisms of the party leadership needed to be taken seriously.

On privacy, however, of which Mr Yeltsin has been a vociferous opponent, Mr Gorbachov conceded that there were still problems. He said he was aiming for a situation where everyone was rewarded only by their wages. Mr Gorbachov also found it



Lithuanians shopping for tea cups in Vilnius yesterday. On the 10th day of the Soviet economic blockade against the Baltic republic's stores appear to be well supplied with food and other essential goods, despite the widespread shortage of petrol

## Letter adds to Baltic sense of betrayal

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

THE call by President Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Kohl for Lithuania to compromise over its independence has come as a serious blow to morale in the breakaway republic after President Bush's refusal to impose economic sanctions against Moscow.

Lithuanians feel betrayed, despite all the indications from Western governments that they would not fully support Vilnius's position.

But, during the run-up to the Bermuda meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush, it became clear that some rapid changes were taking place in American thinking.

A strong assessment of Soviet instability was brought back from Moscow by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. The contents of Mrs Thatcher's telephone call from Mr Gorbachov also had an impact on the way the White House saw the threat.

Mr William Webster, the Director of the CIA, spoke at that time about the Soviet Union's "deep and prolonged crisis" and called for "cool heads" in appraising any steps in support of Lithuanian independence.

The CIA has drastically had to modify its assessment of the Soviet economy from one of small growth and bearable defence expenditure to rapid shrinkage and absolutely in tolerable levels of defence spending.

The French security services, which have won a growing reputation for their work in Romania, Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe, have also played their part in communicating the acute dangers within the Soviet armed forces and the nationalist movements.

M. Mitterrand may assure Lithuanian pride and enable the leadership to argue that, in compromising, it was bowing to pressure from Moscow but to advice from its Western "friends".

Professor Landsbergis seems increasingly willing to offer to suspend many of the laws stemming from the declaration. The one establishing identity cards for Lithuanian citizens has not been introduced, and the President has said that Lithuanians may go on serving in the Soviet Army, if they do so within Lithuania — a proposal which the Soviet Defence Ministry has always rejected.

The line from Moscow has been mixed, with official spokesmen continuing to demand a "return to the Soviet constitution", and unofficial ones hinting that Moscow would accept a suspension of laws, or of the "independence process", without actually demanding that the declaration itself be revoked.

The Lithuanian leadership is divided. Hardliners like the deputy President, Mr Kazimieras Motieka and the one from Herr Kohl and the

leading Sajudis deputy, Dr Virginijus Cepaitis, repeatedly undermine any hints of conciliation from Professor Landsbergis. Extreme nationalists in Sajudis are grouped in the so-called "Kaujas Faction", in which Dr Cepaitis is a guiding force. Professor Landsbergis would have difficulty convincing this group of the necessity of a compromise.

According to those who know him well, the President would also have difficulties with his own conscience. He has evidently posed himself in the role of the diehard defender of Lithuanian independence. When a Western correspondent remarked that he had the look of a man preparing for joyful martyrdom, his words rang true.

If the Lithuanian people begin to suffer economically, however, there could be growing popular pressure for a return to power of the highly competent former Communist president, and present deputy Prime Minister, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas. The Sajudis leadership might feel that it had to reach a com-

promise itself first to prevent such an eventuality.

These divisions in the leadership have led to delegations leaving for Moscow without agreed negotiating positions. A government press official said that offers to suspend the independence process might be simply a means to get Moscow to the negotiating table.

"It doesn't mean that we will agree to this after we begin to talk," she said.

In Vilnius, the effects of Moscow's blockade have still not really begun to bite. Public anxiety is, however, leading to hoarding. The main food store on Gediminas Avenue said that as much food was sold in half a day on Thursday as usually goes in a fortnight. Yesterday the shelves were still heaped with basic foodstuffs — bread, milk and meat — to a degree astonishing to travellers from other parts of the Soviet Union.

Mr Algirdas Radzevicius, a deputy director of food distribution for Vilnius, said yesterday that his main difficulty was finding the petrol to transport food to the city.

shops. This is responsible for the general shortage of flour, which has to come from the mill at Viebūs.

His department is planning to concentrate the sale of many foodstuffs in only 25 per cent of the shops, a measure which could lead to increased unemployment.

The traffic on Vilnius's streets has thinned. Petrol is still available for taxi drivers, but only after long queues. The price of 20 litres of petrol — the government ration for ordinary drivers for one month — has now reached 70 roubles on the black market. The official price is only six roubles, which helps to explain why Moscow might prefer to sell its oil for vastly higher prices on the world market.

• MOSCOW: A Lithuanian who set himself on fire outside the Bolshoi Theatre left a suicide note at his home, but the contents were not disclosed. A spokeswoman said it was not clear if the suicide was linked to the dispute with Moscow. (AP)

Leading article, page 13

## Assad flies to Moscow in search of support

From Christopher Walker, Nicosia

STRAIGHT from playing a central role in the freeing of an American hostage, President Assad of Syria arrived in Moscow yesterday for a visit expected to underline the Kremlin's changing relationship with the Arab world.

Syria's part in ending the kidnapping of Professor Robert Pohlill was the most public sign yet of moves by the Syrian leader to end his country's isolation in response to the transformation inside the former communist bloc.

Syrian and Soviet officials have repeatedly denied any strain in relations, despite persistent reports of a loss of Soviet political interest in Damascus and a drying up of essential military and commercial credits. According to Western sources, annual Soviet military supplies have dropped by a third from their total in the early 1980s of £1.9 billion; but the quality has been maintained.

Recently, Syria received its first consignment of advanced Sukhoi-24 ground attack bombers. But the number of Soviet advisers has slumped by half to about 2,000 and scholarships available to Syrians in Moscow have also dropped by half.

More significant was the unequivocal message from Mr Aleksandr Zotov, the influen-

tial Soviet ambassador and a staunch supporter of President Gorbachov, that days of unquestioning Soviet backing for Syria's impracticable goal of "strategic parity" with Israel are over.

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tial Soviet ambassador and a staunch supporter of President Gorbachov, that days of unquestioning Soviet backing for Syria's impracticable goal of "strategic parity" with Israel are over.

Discussing the weekend visit, President Assad's first for three years, Mr Zotov told a news conference yesterday: "The Soviet Union and Syria intend to exchange our views on enhancing peace and security in global terms and in the Middle East."



Herr Rainer Eppelmann, left, East Berlin's Defence Minister, arriving at Cologne for his first talks with Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, his Bonn counterpart

## Hurd to be pressed to return Sikorski ashes

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

POLAND'S Solidarity-led Government is likely to press Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, for the return of the ashes of Wladyslaw Sikorski, the country's wartime Prime Minister, when he visits Warsaw next week.

The issue is of great symbolic importance for the Poles since Sikorski specifically requested in his will that his ashes be buried in "free Poland". Various Polish governments since 1970 have judged that they had fulfilled this condition and demanded the return of the ashes.

Sikorski, who held general's rank, was killed in an aircraft crash off Gibraltar on July 9, 1943. Deep in the crypt of Wawel Cathedral, an empty tomb awaits his ashes, currently in Newark military cemetery in Cambridgeshire.

Mr Hurd will arrive in Poland tomorrow, and will have talks with Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, on Monday. He will meet Cardinal Jozef Glemp on Tuesday, and Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, in Gdansk on Wednesday.

The British position has partly been conditioned by the attitude of émigré Poles and the Polish government-in-exile in London. Sikorski's widow, Helena, made it clear as early as 1971

that she wanted her husband's ashes flown back to mark what would have been his ninetieth birthday, but the shooting of workers in December, 1970, put paid to that idea.

Helena Sikorski died in 1972 and was buried in a family tomb in the mountain resort of Zakopane.

Other relatives then took up the cause, arguing that the legalization of Solidarity in 1980-81 had effectively created this condition and demanded the return of the ashes.

Mr William (now Lord) Whitelaw, the then Home Secretary, did not agree, saying that he was not satisfied that all the relevant criteria had been fulfilled.

When General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader who is now the country's President, declared martial law in the winter of 1981, it seemed that the Home Office was in the right.

Communist newspapers in Poland grumbled about Mrs Thatcher imposing political conditions on what was both a family and a Polish affair, but still she resisted.

In March 1988, Mrs Thatcher fended off pressure in the Commons by declaring: "It's a delicate and difficult problem. Poles differ in opinion and the time to permit the move has not yet come."

Sikorski, who fought in the

## West 'flexible' on Berlin pull-out

By Andrew McEwan  
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE four Western powers, which are to resume talks with the Soviet Union and East Germany on German reunification on Monday, will be putting far more emphasis on keeping a united Germany inside Nato than on persuading Moscow to withdraw its troops from East Germany quickly, it emerged yesterday.

The United States, West Germany, Britain and France are expected to take a tough line in the "two plus four" meeting in East Berlin on Germany's remaining part of Nato after reunification.

But they are prepared to be flexible on the time. Soviet forces will need to withdraw, even if it means a limited Soviet presence continuing for several years.

Baron Hermann von Richthofen, the West German Ambassador to Britain, said yesterday: "We expect that Soviet forces may be deployed on GDR territory for a strictly limited transitional period."

The phrase "a strictly limited period" is expected to be used by all four Western countries in the talks, which will be followed by a meeting of the six foreign ministers on May 5.

The four Western countries had been expected to try to persuade East Germany to take a firm line on the timing of withdrawal, following the elections on March 18 in which the Christian Democrats emerged as the largest party.

But because the allies attach so much greater importance to the Nato issue, the timing of those elections is now seen as something which could be a diplomatic trading point.

Speaking at Guildhall in London, Baron von Richthofen said: "The United Germans will take its place alongside its fellow members of the North Atlantic Alliance and alongside its (EC) partners who have chosen to build a European union."

## German spy reflects on his part in Brandt's downfall

From Anne McElroy  
East Berlin

ROOTING out the most infamous of East German spies in the hamlet of Egersdorf in the Berlin countryside is scarcely the toughest of intelligence assignments —

"The easiest house in the Chaussee with a double garage," the postman said helpfully.

Anyone endowed with a double garage in East Germany is a fair bet to have been a hero of the former regime.

Herr Günter Guillaume, the agent, whose discovery in Chancellor Willy Brandt's office toppled the architect of *ostpolitik*, potters in from his lakeside garden, the picture of contented retirement, all corpulent charm and welcoming chuckles.

Sixteen years ago he was exposed as an East German spy operating as the former Chancellor's personal assistant.

For 20 years he had delivered information from political circles in West Germany into the hands of his spymaster, Herr Markus Wolf, causing untold damage to West German security.

Despite his disillusionment with the old East German regime he said he did not regret his work. "I saw it as a contribution to ensuring that the Cold War did not become a hot one. I was not interested in Marxism but in securing peace in Germany. For a lot of people of my generation, Adenauer's re-armament policy was

synonymous with preparing a new military conflict. There was no other way to combat this."

After his exposure he was tried and sentenced to 13 years imprisonment and was deported to East Germany in 1981 to outlast his 25-year sentence.

Herr Guillaume's first offence however, involved penetrating every level of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). He still maintains that it was never East Berlin's intention to unseat Herr Brandt as Chancellor and is neutral at the suggestion that his work was destructive.

"I did not work against Brandt. I worked for him. The reports I passed to East Berlin ensured that his *ostpolitik* gained credibility here. My case was used as an excuse to unseat him by his own party. There was a powerful lobby for replacing him with Helmut Schmidt."

A conversation with Herr Guillaume is a bewildering mixture of the Cold War rhetoric of the East's "illegal struggle" to preserve peace and fond reminiscences of his career in the SPD which he still calls "my party" in moments of forgetfulness.

Setting in the West in the emigration wave of the mid-80s, he rose quickly within the party, fired by a mixture of enthusiasm for its opposition to Adenauer's re-armament policy and an unerring ability to make himself indispensable to rising politicians.

While he regales his triumphs, he is animated and the broad, bearded face

flushes with the memories of his achievements. But he is also strangely vulnerable, prone to sudden silences and painful admissions



# Church protest as Shamir vows to back settlement

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

MR YITZHAK Shamir, the caretaker Israeli Prime Minister and Likud leader, yesterday set about forming a right-wing government which he vowed would defy US pressure and continue to fund Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, despite a rising tide of Palestinian anger. "Israeli citizens have the right to settle anywhere in Israel," Mr Shamir declared after being asked by President Herzog to form an administration.

As he spoke, the great bells of the Christian churches in the Old City of Jerusalem tolled in protest against Mr Shamir's support for the continuing occupation of a former Christian pilgrimage hosted by 150 Jewish settlers.

Tourists found the huge gates of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre firmly closed. The mournful booming of the bells and the silent, locked gates appeared to foreshadow a period of confrontation between the hard-edged ideology of an increasingly powerful Likud, and the doves views of its

Mr Shamir yesterday denied that he would be beholden to far-right MPs, saying: "I need make no

concessions to anyone." But Israeli left-wingers said an era in which "we tried to accustom Israelis to the idea of an accommodation with the Palestinians" had come to an end. They vowed to step up their campaign against the Likud policy of "creating new facets" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by underwriting new settlements.

Holy places in Nazareth and Bethlehem were also closed yesterday in protest. In Jerusalem, officials from the main Christian churches, whose congregations are Arab, said this unprecedented action could be followed by closure for an indefinite period, leading to a "state of war" between the Christian Arab population and the Israeli authorities, if the settlers did not leave the Christian Quarter.

Mr Shamir's prospects of breaking a six-year pattern of Likud-Labour grand coalitions appear favourable following the admission on Thursday by Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, that he had failed to muster a majority in the Knesset (parliament). Mr Shamir has six weeks in which to prove that he can succeed where Mr Peres failed.

Yesterday, Likud sources were already claiming a

Knesset majority of 61 to 59 to leave." He did not elaborate.

The settlers argue that the division of the Old City into Christian, Muslim, Armenian and Jewish quarters was an administrative measure by the British authorities in Palestine, and that Jews have the right to live anywhere in the

West Bank for the building of two new settlements, and said this would place in question proposed US housing aid to Israel for new Soviet immigrants. But the Old City dispute has become the focus of attention, with US Jewish groups expressing anger and dismay over disclosures that the transitional Shamir Administration had covertly transferred official funds to enable a hard-line Jewish group to buy the lease on the hotel through a Panamanian front organization.

Yesterday, joining the dismal boom of the bells, Mr David Ben Ami, the settlers' spokesman, and 130 of the settlers would leave on Tuesday in accordance with Thursday's ruling by the Supreme Court in favour of the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns the hotel. But 20 settlers would stay behind, with the court's sanction, as guards, and "we hope that by Tuesday new facts will emerge which will mean that none of us have



Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's caretaker Prime Minister and Likud leader, speaking yesterday after accepting President Herzog's invitation to form a new government

## Birendra power base goes

Kathmandu  
THE new pro-democracy Government has dismantled the remnants of King Birendra's partyless political system, which governed Nepal for 29 years, the largest party in the Government said yesterday.

A Nepali Congress Party spokesman said the order to disband the *panchayat* system throughout the country's villages, towns and districts was passed by the Cabinet late on Thursday night.

*Panchayat*, which means "grassroots government", was the system that allowed the King to exercise virtually absolute power. Political parties were outlawed. *Panchayat* members, called *panchayat*, were elected on a non-party basis or nominated by King Birendra.

The new Government's decision to disband all *panchayat* was conveyed to the Nepali Congress by Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the Prime Minister, during a party executive committee meeting, the party spokesman told reporters.

"From now on there is no *panchayat* from village level to national level in the country," he said. "This is a very drastic and swift step towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people." (AP)

## Indians recruit carrion turtles to purify holy river

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THE Ganges is a sad sight. Tens of thousands of bloated bodies, with fat vultures sitting on them, float by with the lazy currents as Hindu pilgrims splash and romp in the foul and holy water.

They swallow mouthfuls of pollution, undeterred from their devotions even as corpses pass in front of them like chunks of blackened driftwood. Self-purification in the Ganges can be – and often is – fatal.

Desperate problems require desperate solutions, even if they are a little prehistoric. Enter *Trionyx gangesius* and *Lissemys punctata granosa*, which have been around the 1,500-mile Ganges for a very long time, eating just about anything that is dead.

They are meat-eating turtles. Not many are left because hungry peasants have been capturing them. Although they lay many eggs, only a small number hatch successfully, and before long the creatures might have disappeared altogether. But the government of the big northern state of Uttar Pradesh has other ideas.

Mr R. S. Bhardwaj, the chief wildlife warden of Uttar Pradesh, said a rumour that the turtles would attack bathers in the river was ridiculous. "There is absolutely no possibility of this happening," he said. "This is not going to be another *Jaws*."

The carcass crisis in the Ganges has defied every remedy. More than 30 electric crematoria – much more efficient than traditional wood pyres – have been installed along the river banks so that only ashes are dumped into the sacred water. But new ideas are slow to penetrate in India, especially in matters of religious ritual.

Most people still prefer to give their relatives an old-style wood fire at the traditional *ghats*, before placing the remains in the sacred waters to ensure eternal life of the soul. But wood is expensive and scarce. Pyres, therefore, are built to a budget, and bodies are often not fully cremated before the fire goes out. What is left is thrown into the river.

The scale of the problem is staggering: in the holy city of Varanasi alone, 10,000 bodies a year are burnt – or, as is often the case, half-burnt. Huge numbers of carcasses of

## Hindu MPs win the battle of Bombay

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

HINDU fundamentalists in the Indian Parliament have won a battle to change the Hindi name for Bombay in all official proceedings of the Lok Sabha (lower house).

From now on it will be known as Mumbai, instead of Bambai. The battle is also on to change the English name to Mumbai – said to be the original name derived from the goddess Mumabdevi.

Mr Rabindra Ray, the Speaker, ordered the change after complaints by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party. Mr Ram Naik, an MP who led the fight, said the official translation of the Constitution of India in Hindi, signed in 1950, contained the name of the then Bombay state as Mumabai Raya. In the face of that precedent, he argued that the Speaker had no choice but to comply with the demand.

The English name for the city derives from the Portuguese, who had been ceded the territory by the Sultan of

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# Good ends by no ill means

Clifford Longley

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, put forward a Church of England view on embryo experimentation in *The Times* on Monday which was startlingly different from that presented on the opposite page by five Catholic archbishops. There is evidently potential for an interesting ecumenical conversation between Dr Habgood and his Catholic opposite numbers.

Abortion and embryology are in some respects different issues, although the Catholic approach tends to mix them. Destroying an early embryo is considered as wrong as killing a well-established fetus, for the same reason. But this begs the very question Dr Habgood had raised: whether an embryo in its early stages can be recognized as human life. As he knows, because he reads it regularly, *The Tablet* has recently hosted a Roman Catholic debate between distinguished theologians on this point, and the score was about even.

If a pre-14 day embryo is not strictly speaking "human life", then its destruction is not equivalent to abortion. Its destruction is not what the Catholic archbishops and later Cardinal Hume himself had condemned, the doing of a wrong act on the utilitarian ground — in aid of research — that good may come of it. So the Catholic response overlooks the possibility that non-utilitarians like Dr Habgood might reach different conclusions because of a different view of the status of the early embryo, rather than different moral principles.

The Catholic Church's implacable opposition to abortion stems from the application of one basic principle: that it is never permissible to choose a wrong means to a good end, never permissible to justify such a choice as the lesser of two evils. That a well-established fetus is "human life" is not disputed by either side in the argument, as it is in the case of embryo research; what is disputed is whether there can ever be circumstances in which ending its life is, in the moral sense, the least-worst course available.

In the case of abortion, the principle has not been much discussed by Catholic moral theologians (the church does not like clerical dissent on abortion), but they have intensely debated the parallel question of nuclear weapons. The principle says it is never permissible to achieve a good end (deterrence of war) by a wrong means (preparing to kill millions of innocent people). In the US, many Catholic bishops have been persuaded by this argument virtually to espouse unilateral nuclear disarmament, and some say they were pointed in this direction by thinking about abortion.

It is not clear, however, that this absolute moral principle — that

the end can never justify the means — ought strictly speaking to be called Christian at all. It is neither explicit nor implied in the Bible. It is essentially a philosophical rather than a theological judgement. So why is the Catholic Church so attached to an absolute morality, and as opposed to a utilitarian one? There is no infallible papal dogma on the point.

It is essentially a matter of philosophical method rather than revealed doctrine, there could not be, for dogma applies only to revelation.

The Catholic moral tradition has been substantially shaped by the practice of private confession. Moral theology as an area of specialized study arose from the ancient penitential codes, which set out a precise tariff of penance according to the severity of the sin. This has long ceased, but what to say in the confessional remains a preoccupation among priests, for they understand themselves to be exercising a divine power.

Necessarily the emphasis in such a context is on individual acts of sin. Each has to be described sufficiently by the penitent so that it can be quantified by the priest, and so that sorrow for each sin can be decided and duly acknowledged, leading to absolution on condition of a firm intent to mend one's ways. It is a process which fascinates psychiatrists, who recognize in it a certain psychological truth.

At its best, the regular practice of private confession can help to cultivate a kind of translucent personal integrity and simplicity which is very attractive; at its worst it leads to an almost amorality of gossip that always accompanied his political life now speculates on whether the presidency is his last lap in the race.

He does not conceal his delight in the trappings of the EC presidency, enjoying being called "Mr President". Haughey-watchers in Dublin have noticed that his hand movements in the presence of crowds have begun to assume a particular moment. It is very individualistic.

Inevitably it enlarges the importance of those sins on a time-scale that is well suited to deal with, such as individual sexual acts, to the detriment of others it cannot so easily cope with, such as relational, social or collective behaviour. Thus racism, which may easily be the more serious sin, is hard to pin down in the confessional, while masturbation or fornication (or abortion) are easy.

Such a concentration on specific actions, and the avoidance at all costs of those actions which used to be called "mortal sins", is likely to lead towards moral absolutism. If sinful acts must be avoided at all costs, there can be no choosing between different sins, to select the lesser, no choosing of a sinful act because of some greater good. The confessional is not the place for a utilitarian seminar. It is the place where sin is healed by holiness, for the avoidance of damnation.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

The poll tax has drawn first blood in the household of one Tory ex-MP: me. Perhaps I can explain.

My Land Rover, which is 30 years old, needed a new petrol tank a couple of weeks ago, as the old one was rusted through. Nigel (the mechanic) fitted the replacement, to his usual high standard. He returned the vehicle with the old tank in for

Some mechanics do this. The theory (I think) is that the customer can inspect for himself the ill which he has paid to remove. Such trophies are not unlike the tonsils children bring back in jars from hospital, or the withered penises of combatants slain in battle which — according to that intrepid writer and traveller Wilfred Thesiger — are worn on string necklaces by Danchi tribesmen in Ethiopia, as proof of their martial prowess.

Petrol tanks, however, are inconvenient to store and cannot be worn as ornaments. This one was three feet long, half as wide and very heavy. I did not want it at all. So I slipped it into one of the plastic black bin-liners marked "DDDC" which the Derbyshire Dales District Council supply, for removal by their dustmen. It fitted (just), but the bin-liner could hardly conceal its content. Which is why the dustmen did not take it on Monday.

I make no complaint about that. Dustmen remove domestic waste. No doubt they have instructions that a line must be drawn somewhere, and large pieces of motorcars are not domestic waste. I did not have a leg to stand on.

But this only increased my rage. "What else?", I remonstrated to the refrigerator. "do I ask them to do for me? I have no children to educate, never bother the police or fire brigade and do not need the social services..." Then (waving my poll tax bill at the freezer): "And they call this a community charge. For what?"

I determined that, come hell or high water, the council would take my old tank. It was simply a matter of fooling the dustmen.

But how? To be concealed,

I fished the largest rock I could find, hauled it up to chest level, tearing my anorak, and dropped it on the tank. The rock bounced off, striking my shin. But this was only a surface wound, soon dressed: and it gave me time to think.

Seven stone steps climb to a raised landing outside my barn. Placing the tank beneath it, and cradling the rock against my torn anorak, I staggered up the steps, and dropped the rock. There was a satisfying crunch. A small dent appeared in the tank.

Thirty-seven rock falls later my hands were bleeding. I had forgone lunch, it was raining and I was soaked. But the tank was half stove-in. Though I seemed to have strained a muscle in the groin, victory was in sight. I tried — so far as its weight allowed — throwing the rock downwards, rather than just dropping it. This increased the velocity on impact: so I summoned strength for one final, vigorous throw from the edge of the platform, gave a warlike yell, lunged, and lost my footing.

The violence of my movement carried me with the rock over the side. We both fell on the tank. Luckily the rock hit the tank first. I was only bruised. As I staggered indoors, the landscape seemed to spin a little.

Late by now for a drink with friends, I washed, dressed, limped out to the Land Rover and took the wheel. Rounding the corner by the barn, I saw the almost flattened tank in the road, and something snapped in my brain. I drove hard at it. As the rear wheel went over, there was a sharp crack. "Ahah," I thought. "There she goes!"

But the vehicle coasted to a halt, transmission whirring uselessly. I had snapped the half-shaft which turns one rear wheel. Using front-wheel drive I nursed the Land Rover back to Nigel's.

I have three things to say. 1. I have paid my poll tax. 2. Nigel, would you like to keep the old half-shaft this time? 3. The dustmen took the disguised tank this morning.

The Prime Minister was up-

staged by another of her deputies

stranded below. Ingham tried to badger Turkish officials into organizing a personal flight, but they seemed unaware of the importance of the man many call the real deputy prime minister. Fortunately he heard another helicopter starting up in a nearby clearing in the woods, ran for it and managed to hitch a ride with sources close to the Turkish forestry commission.

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J. V. Smith

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 01-782 5000

## TINKERING WITH ERROR

oner or later Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet must take a grip on the future of the poll tax. Rumours of revisions to the tax - poll tax banding, poll tax capping, expenditure capping and service centralization - suggest a Government in panic. These drastic options are not being publicly debated. They are passing through no independent scrutiny. No attempt is being made to secure even a modicum of consensus, let alone those in local government which are most affected. Yet another radical change to the tax system is being mooted, by parliamentary private secretaries in talks with government backbenchers. Nothing less than a full "Bill" is predicted.

This is no way to proceed. That ministers could even be contemplating the centralizing of all local revenue implies the abandonment of local democratic accountability in favour of Whitehall rule. Such a proposal is even more draconian than the many measures introduced over the past decade by Mrs Thatcher and her Treasury restricting the power and discretion of local councils. It is also complete *vote* face on the purpose of the poll tax, which was to increase rather than eliminate accountability. The Government has a mandate for such elimination, beyond the popularity of its existing measure.

Even ardent friends find advising the government in this predicament difficult. To embark on a hugely contentious reform in order to appease party sentiment during a bad year of opinion polls is a constitutional abomination. It is also counterproductive in the succession to a Tory leadership. Those now implementing the poll tax thus face an Opposition pledged to defeat it, a Tory predecessor also hinting at a referendum, and a Government being driven to constitutional reform. Small wonder they are perturbed. The odds must be strongly in favour of the tax not lasting more than another year or two.

The case for abolition and reversion to a

## UNWANTED ATTENTIONS

*Vita auctam contra mundi* might have been the motto of the State which declared its independence on March 11. Since Thursday's joint letter to the Lithuanian President from Mr Kohl and Mitterrand, the words look more likely to become its melancholy epitaph. The letter, which urges President Landsbergis to "suspend for a while the effects of the decisions taken by your Parliament", was apparently the brainchild of the West German social-paternal Chancellor. His action is the diplomatic equivalent of leaving Mr Landsbergis alone with a revolver on his desk.

The Quai d'Orsay yesterday denied that the Lithuanians are being asked to renounce the right of independence. But the letter is balanced, calling back to the status quo ante, before even mentioning access to the antechambers of the Kremlin. The Lithuanians would be conceding the last vestiges of Soviet sovereignty. The law on secession was pushed through the Soviet legislature after March 11 gives the Congress of People's Deputies an absolute veto on secession, even after an applicant has taken five years to transgress the stringent preliminary hurdles.

The Estonians may have been wiser as well. They are more cautious than their neighbour, but they see the Lithuanian struggle as their own. If Lithuania surrendered now, it would renounce that precious right of self-determination which West Germans have invoked on behalf of their compatriots who, like the Baltic states, lived under Soviet tutelage for over 40 years.

If there were some guarantee that independence would be granted in the end, the West Germans are pragmatic enough to be patient. But there is no such guarantee, nor can there be; no one can predict who will be running the Kremlin in five years' time - or even what kind of State the Kremlin will then represent. Today, for Lithuania, it still represents a criminal State which - one of whose KGB generals this week admitted for the first time - has executed no less than 3.5 million Soviet citizens since 1917.

The logic of great power diplomacy dictates that Western Europe's absolute priority has now become German reunification. Provisional Lithuania is an inconvenient sideshow. Few now believe that the man who, invited to whitewash the ceiling, uses the paper-boy to take Lord for a walk, in the hope of eradicating his habit of leaving half the delivery in the middle of the pavement and bunging the rest over the area railings? (For that matter, will he stop whistling when honest folk are trying to sleep?)

The dustmen? A difficult case this, it must be said. True, many of the collogues left on the garden path every collection day would change stands for substantial sums at auction, and only the most hidebound traditionalist would jib at them. Unfortunately there are still many hidebound traditionalists about. Until they fully understand the role of the *objet trouvé* in modern art, it would be better if the dustmen's curriculum included lessons in artistic restraint.

Vistas open: suppose the police took such a course. "Excuse me, Sir, but it is with the

property-based household tax - whether related to property value or not - is, as we have previously stated, overwhelming. That the Opposition has come to this conclusion should not, at least in theory, deter the Government from making a clean break of a mistake and doing the same. There is a case, both politically and constitutionally, for revising the revision to some independent inquiry, if only to distance from party politics what ought to be a widely-agreed reform of local taxation.

Tinkering with the poll tax meanwhile makes no sense at all. The banding proposal, gradually the tax by income, is fraught with difficulties: which household incomes to assess, how to avoid poverty traps, and how not to inflict higher band (predominantly Tory) taxpayers. Mrs Thatcher is right against this idea.

Then there is talk of cutting upwards of £3 billion at local spending next year, in the hope of reducing the 1991 levy. But how to ensure that such money, which must come from higher central taxation, does not go into higher local spending rather than lower poll taxes? The only answer is further widespread capping, which negates the tax's reason for existing. On the present basis, the tax is virtually unworkable.

The best way forward is for the Government to retain the courage of its one sensible conviction in this affair, that of increased accountability. Ministers should stop all talk of capping. They should settle for a slightly improved local government support grant next year so the better behaved local councils, at very least, cannot blame them for meanness. And they should kick the whole issue into a non-partisan committee of inquiry. The Government could simply say it will take seriously any recommendations for change, and turn its attention to more important business. This is not the most edifying procedure, but it might make the best of a bad job.

## School management

ambition of leading a reunified Germany next year, there must be no slippage in the timetable. That means doing everything in his power to reach an accommodation with the Soviet Union, if possible before the two-plus-four talks expose differences among the Allies. At least until reunification is in the bag, Herr Kohl badly needs Mr Gorbachov not only to remain in power but to be co-operative over the withdrawal of East Germany's huge Soviet garrison.

Lithuania weighs so lightly in these scales that President Gorbachov has been under no serious pressure to lift the Soviet blockade. Washington is more sympathetic to Vilnius, but the Europeans - led by the Germans - are leaning heavily on Mr Bush. American public opinion is not prepared to forego the "peace dividend" for the sake of a faraway Baltic republic.

Whether Mrs Thatcher will toe the Franco-German line on Lithuania at Dublin today remains to be seen. Her head tells her that there is no alternative to giving Mr Gorbachov a free hand. Her heart must surely tell her that it can never be right to encourage a friend to do wrong. It is true that she can do little, but she can tell Mr Gorbachov that his own and his country's interests will not be served by the pyrrhic victory which he may, with Western connivance, gain over the Baltic peoples.

Of the three West European leaders who matter, only Mrs Thatcher is sufficiently disinterested to be able to take moral considerations into account. She need not join Mitterrand in clinging to Herr Kohl's coat-tails. Now that the French and Germans have intervened, they have also acquired a moral responsibility to ensure that if Lithuania elects to follow Mr Gorbachov's constitutional road to secession, the Soviet Government keeps its promises. Mrs Thatcher should impress upon them that that is the implication of their intervention.

On the same day that the letter was sent, a despairing Lithuanian, Mr Stanislaw Janaitas, burned himself to death in Moscow. Today Jan Palach, the young Czech whose example doubtless had in mind, is honoured in his country and abroad as a martyr for freedom. Western sceptics had better beware of dismissing the Baltic independence movement. One day, and it may be soon, the name of Janaitas may return to reproach them.

## PROFESSIONAL CHARMERS

greatest regret that I have to point out that you are driving in the wrong direction down a one-way street, in a most erratic manner, if I may say so, to boot. Were you to make this a habit, it might eventually fall to my lot to rebuke you, a possibility which I view with dread, nay, with abhorrence."

Or think of the people behind theatre box office windows. With first-rate teachers they could learn to smile in a month, though it would probably take traffic wardens three. Bookies could be persuaded to give us our money back; the department store would deliver on time; British Telecom might get the bills right, or at least (we must learn to walk before we can run) answer the telephone.

What about politicians? They would certainly be apt pupils, to judge from the speed with which they calculated their better profile as soon as the cameras were allowed into the Commons. They might not be best pleased, though, if they were invited to take a leaf from the book of the pioneering plumbers, whose *Holy Writ* says unambiguously of the workman that "he should not volunteer any opinions other than professional information".

The Yorkshire Water Board (who started it all) will be monitoring the experiment. If it turns out to be a great success, this country could be transformed into a centre of efficiency and good manners. Why, in years to come, the Inland Revenue might start to say "please".

## Credit where credit is due

From Mr Jonathan G. Lucas  
Sir, Who pays for credit cards? I have always assumed that the commission paid by retailers to credit card companies covered the cost of issuing the cards and administering payments. Interest payments from cardholders should be icing on the cake.

In view of the decision to change for the Barclaycard (report, April 25) I am writing to the bank to suggest that the revenue raised from retailers is shared with me by a 2.5 per cent discount to me on all the payments through the card. As a heavy card-user this would more than offset the charge and have the merit of fairness.

If, through the courtesy of your columns, others are encouraged to do likewise, perhaps this hypocrisy over card charges could be exposed.

Yours faithfully,

JONATHAN G. LUCAS,

Close End, Manor Close,

Pew, Buckinghamshire.

April 25.

From Mr K. Wood

Sir, According to my Barclays Bank statement the sum of £1,027.35 left my current account en route to Barclaycard on Monday, March 26, to settle in full my March account. For some reason, which in these days of electronic funds transfer I find staggering, it did not reach Barclaycard until March 28, causing my account to be charged £20.81 interest.

Now if between the 26th and the 28th the money was not in my account and not in Barclaycard's account, where was it? The answer must be earning interest for Barclays Bank. If the banks make a few days' interest each month on every credit card account, surely they should pay us to have them.

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH WOOD,

MIS Services Limited,

18-20 Appold Street, EC2.

April 27.

From Mr L. E. Dowdall

Sir, The advice tendered to Barclaycard holders to "play the field" in your third leader (April 25) will, I fear, be followed by many. Nevertheless, I challenge the assumption by Barclays that those who decline to incur debt get the use of their cards free. Surely part, at least, of the commission paid to the credit card companies is recovered in one way or another through the pricing mechanism?

However, I have no intention of subsidising the thrifites further and I have today returned my card to Northampton. The main losers, I suspect, will be those retailers from whom, from time to time, I have made purchases on impulse.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. DOWDALL,

4 Pembridge Road,

Colne Engaine,

Colchester, Essex.

April 25.

From Professor S. F. Bush

Sir, Ronald Butt said (article, April 23) that it is inconceivable that Britain should leave the EC.

But why is it inconceivable? Politicians in the original EC Six have repeatedly said they want political union - a United States of Europe. Why not believe they mean what they say, rather than keep asking what they really mean?

What they mean is a sovereign republican Government to which national governments would be subordinate and to which foreign countries such as the USSR and USA would accredit their diplomatic representatives. The Queen, while remaining the supreme symbol of law-making and parliamentary sovereignty in 10 other Commonwealth countries, would no longer have that role in Britain, her native land.

It is perfectly pointless therefore for the British Government to join in talks on political union, if it is

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Seeking changes in Europe's treaties

From the Deputy Chairman of the European Democratic Group

Sir, The pragmatic support of your leading article ("For Europe and St George") for a positive British approach to constitutional change in the European Community is greatly to be welcomed. It is high time for "yes, but" diplomacy which will prove more effective in safeguarding Britain's real interests than an 11-1 against position which diminishes the effectiveness of arguments concerning real difficulties on the grounds that "that's just one of Britain's wrecking tactics".

You report that Britain wants a gradualist approach to change "without any change to the existing treaties". This tired old approach is always trotted out. I recall it most clearly in the days after the European Parliament's draft treaty, when the Single European Act was under consideration. We were dragged unwillingly on board in the end - and the SEA has proved to be a major factor in the increased dynamism of the Community. Treaty change is difficult, but it will come and we must be up with the game.

Finally, you speak of "any plans for subordinating the Commission to the European Parliament". The Commission is already responsible to Parliament. May I refer you to Article 144 of the Treaty of Rome? If a motion of censure is carried out by a two-thirds majority "representing a majority of the current members of the European Parliament the members of the Commission shall resign as a body". Parliament's power of the sack over the Commission resembles Westminster's power of the sack over the British Government.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,

European Parliament Office,

2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

April 27.

From Professor S. F. Bush

Sir, Ronald Butt said (article, April 23) that it is inconceivable that Britain should leave the EC. But why is it inconceivable? Politicians in the original EC Six have repeatedly said they want political union - a United States of Europe. Why not believe they mean what they say, rather than keep asking what they really mean?

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It is perfectly pointless therefore for the British Government to join in talks on political union, if it is

## Natal violence

From Mr B. M. Skosana

Sir, Your headline, "Natal violence turns white opinion against Buthelezi" (April 21, later editions), is far too sweeping. Surely, there are more plausible and scientific ways of assessing the opinion of the white people in Natal with regard to Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi than to confer with an isolated group of white liberals who are clearly known to be strongly anti-Buthelezi, anti-Inkatha and whose so-called 24 hours' unrest monitoring activities are sponsored through ANC/UDF political tendencies in Natal.

These deal with issues of life and death, of ambition, power struggles, of love and hate and are not irrelevant to us today. "Boredom, irritation, puzzlement"? What a comment on the modern theatre-goer.

Yours faithfully,

IAN M. SCIORTINO,

3 Alexander Court,

Kidbrooke Grove, SE3.

April 20.

From Mr C. F. Slade

Sir, Your article, "Shakespeare on the shelf", refers to the fast-moving production of the *Comedy of Errors* in 1983. It is doubtful whether it was as fast-moving as *Macbeth* in 1852. The *Reading Mercury* newspaper, reporting on the Pleasure Fair that was part of the Michaelmas Cheese Fair, states:

... the other large shows were a circus and a theatre, in the latter of which, on Wednesday evening, the tragedy of *Macbeth* was done in about ten minutes, to the great delight of crowded audiences.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SLADE,

28 Holmes Road,

Reading, Berkshire.

April 20.

## Shakespeare in a modern light

From Mr G. F. Woodbridge

Sir, Your concerned contributor Bernard Richards ("Shakespeare on the shelf", April 19), questions the coupling of visual anachronisms, albeit with the best of intentions, to an unmodified Shakespearean text. He pleads that producing with antiquarian zeal might be a better course and gives some exciting glimpses of how that might be achieved.

I question whether what Dr Richards describes as "absurd and baseless fantasies" are as meaningless as he implies. It is theatre we are talking about, and although the proscenium arch has largely ceased to exist physically it should still enable us to suspend belief when necessary.

When, therefore, a Falstaff resembling Jimmy Edwards in plus-fours calls for a sack we know that when it arrives, whatever it looks like, it will indeed be the gun and tonic which Dr Richards says he should have asked for. In four centuries the cup of sack has become, just for now, transmitted into something else, just as Petruccio's broken-down horse is perfectly represented by a clapped-out motor-bike with a defective silencer.

The dilemma in which Dr Richards finds himself is one of his own making and bears lightly, if at all, on most ordinary theatre-goers. The poetry remains the same and transcends time.

G. F. WOODBRIDGE,

Hallions Quay,

Hallionsford, Worfield,

Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

April 20.

From Mr Ian M. Sciortino

Sir, I was pained to see that the attempt to shelve Shakespeare came from the pen of an Oxford Fellow. It is easy, of course, to pillory a director who ventures into the dangerous waters of modernising William. I notice that the distinguished Fellow





## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

## BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Pure Maths — Coping with Irrationality 7.05 Data Modelling — the Wood From the Trees

7.30 Playdays. For the young. The storyteller is Simon Davies (r) 7.50 The Muppet Babies (r)

8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. Live entertainment for young people presented by Ross King and Charlotte Hande, featuring a mixture of music, cartoons, news, drama and discussion. Today, Charlotte joins New Kids on the Block at the start of their first UK tour and Ross meets singer Sam Brown. There are also two new features — Rapattack in which young rappers are offered the chance to write and perform their own raps — and Photozone which stars teenagers bringing to life the comic and romantic cartoons featured in magazine

10.55 Film: The Flight of Dragons (1983). Staidly developed animated adventure set in the time between the waning Age of Magic and the burgeoning Age of Science. A man is brought back from the 20th century to help recapture the Red Crown whose power is in the possession of the evil Ommanon. Produced and directed by Arthur Rankin Jr and Jules Bass 12.27 Weather

12.30 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lyman. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 Football: Gerald Sanderson on the teams in the World Cup's Group B: 1.00 News; 1.05 Sport: the opening matches of the final of the Embassy World Professional championship; 2.00 Squash: the final of the Hi-Tech British Women's Open;

2.25 Boxing: Gary Jacobs against Pascal Leroy at Latchmere Leisure Centre; 2.40 Rugby League: live coverage from Wembley of the sport's biggest occasion of the year, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. Can Warrington, the unfancied underdogs, upset form and beat classy Wigan?

4.40 Final Score

5.05 News with Morna Stuart. Weather

5.15 Regional news and sport

Wales: 5.15-5.25 Wales on Saturday

5.20 Stay Tuned! Cartoons presented by Tony Robinson

5.45 The Flying Doctors. Tepid Australian drama series about medics in a remote township. Will a gas field explosion spark off romance between Geoff and Kate? (Ceefax)

Wales: 6.05-6.30 Stay Tuned!

6.35 Opportunity Knocks. Les Dawson welcomes back the winner of last week's competition and launches six new showbusiness hopefuls — two comedians, a dance duo, two solo singers, and a pianist. This week's guest is Welsh singer Heloise

7.25 Three Up, Two Down. Michael Eppich and Angela Thorpe star in Richard Oram's comedy about mismatched in-laws who are forced to live under the same roof. (r)

7.50 Film: The Case of the Shooting Star (1986) starring Raymond Burr, Barbara Hale and William Katt. The overweight Perry Mason heaves and grunts his way to another courtroom triumph as he investigates a fatal shooting that was witnessed by 40 million television viewers. Did a celebrated film star really kill a chat show host — or was he framed? Directed by Ron Satff

9.30 News with Michael Buerk. Sport and weather

Brenda Fricker plays nurse Roach (9.50pm)

pub comedian Arthur in a pool of blood and becomes the police's number one suspect for the attack (r). (Ceefax)

10.40 Paramount City. Stand-up comedy and music introduced by Arthur Smith. Tonight, Julian Clary, Mark Steel and Jo Brand, and American comics Will Durst and Roger Coker

11.20 Film: The Man with the Deadly Lens (1982) starring Sean Connery, Katharine Ross and Hardy Kruger. While on assignment in North Africa top television reporter Patrick Hale discovers evidence of a nuclear arms-dealing plot. His investigations lead to his involvement with the CIA, international terrorists and leading politicians. An eccentric thriller that had its title changed from *Wrong is Right* after its release in the United States. Directed by Richard Brooks

1.05am Weather

seethes with creative energy. The subject is taken from a real incident, a shipboard mutiny in the Crimea in 1905. No one could claim that *Battleship Potemkin* is reliable history but its reputation as a seminal film is secure



Robert Lloyd as Boris Godunov (4.30pm)

4.30 Live from Leningrad: Boris Godunov. (r)

● This much praised production was the only work in opera by Andrei Tarkovsky, better known as a film director, who died of cancer in 1987. First staged at the Royal Opera

House in London, it now comes live from the Kirov Theatre in Leningrad with simultaneous stereo transmission on Radio 3. The British bass Robert Lloyd repeats his Covent Garden performance as the tormented tsar and the rest of the cast comprises Soviet singers, of whom the most familiar to British audiences is Sergei Leiferkus

8.30 World Snooker. David Vine introduces frames eight to 16 of the best of 35 final of the Embassy World Professional Snooker championship from the Crucible in Sheffield.

9.50 Video Diaries

● Lisa Chidell, a young Londoner who is neither a journalist nor a filmmaker, takes her video camera to Calcutta in the second of this promising series of personal documentaries. Her concern is India's topic number one — how to cope with a population that is increasing by a newborn baby every second and is likely to double in 35 years. Family planning, as practised by the Marie Stopes clinic, may seem like a vulgar exercise in spitting against the wind but the alternative can hardly be contemplated. The programme has a rough-hewn freshness which could only come from being made by a sensitive amateur untouched by the conventions of seamless television

10.30 NewsView with Morna Stuart and Chris Lowe. Weather

11.15 World Snooker. David Vine introduces highlights from the first 16 frames of the Embassy World Professional championship from Sheffield. Ends at 12.05am

1.05am Weather

6.50 Open University: Maths — Area Games 7.15 Health Visiting and the Party 7.40 Geology, Rock Textures 8.05 The Internal Combustion Engine 8.30 Technology: More than Meets the Eye 8.55 Information Technology: For You 9.20 Education: Literacy in Jamaica 9.45 Romantic Poets in the Alps 10.10 Measuring with Light 10.35 Religion: Pilgrimage 11.25 Evolution of Fishes 11.50 Business to Business 12.15 Whose Countryside Tomorrow? 12.40 Statistics: Lines, Before and After 1.05 Open Business School: Mastering Management 1.30 Modern Art: Kirchner 1.55 Culture and Belief in Europe 2.20 Images of the Third World

2.45 Mahabharat. Episode three of the 91-part Indian drama based on an epic poem and King Shantanu falls in love with Savitri and asks for her hand but her father imposes a condition in Hindi with English subtitles

3.25 Film: Battleship Potemkin (1925, colour and b/w)

● Sergei Eisenstein's classic tends to be more written about than seen. This showing should help to reverse the process. Some allowance must be made for its age but not much. The heady experimentation of a young film-maker finding his way in a young medium is most evident in the famous sequence of the Odessa Steps, with its dynamic juxtaposition of images, but the whole picture

## ITV VARIATIONS

**ANGLIA**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.45pm The 100th Anniversary of the Stock Exchange 1.25pm Fawlty Towers 2.15 The Hit Men and Her 4.05-5.05 in the Heat of the Night

**BORDER**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00am NB 2.10 The Life and Times of Grizelda Adams 2.05 Film: The 1000 Paces Rad 10.40 Film Lady Since the Blues 1.30pm The Twilight Zone 2.05 The Hit Men and Her 4.05-5.05 The Heat of the Night

**CENTRAL**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00am Hot Water 3.05-4.45pm The 1000 Paces Rad 10.40 Film: The Stone 1.20 Garrison's Gorillas 1.20 Counterfeiting 1.30 Film: The Heat of the Night 2.05 Movements 4.05-5.05 American College Footballs

**CHANNEL**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00am Rally-

cross 3.05-4.45pm Film: Escape of the Amethyst 10.40 Film: The Sted 12.25am Friday, the 13th 1.25 The Monsters Today 1.55 Raw Power 2.55 The Twilight Zone 3.20 Wrestling 4.05-5.05 The Hit Men and Her 5.05-6.05 The Heat of the Night

**GRANADA**  
As London except: 2.10pm Film: Mission Galactica — The Cyclon Attack 4.05 The Spectrum 1.20 World Cup Preview 4.45-5.45 Concert 10.40 Film: The Twilight Zone 2.05 The Hit Men and Her 4.10 Final Exposure 4.35-5.05 America's Top Ten

**HTV WEST**  
As London except: 3.05pm-4.45pm Film: Jack the Giant Killer 10.40 Film: Calypso 12.45am Thrill 1.15 Three's Company 1.45 Film: The Lawyer 4.05-5.05 At the Maintenance Shop (Dermot Bowler)

**HTV WALES**  
As HTV West except: No Variations

**SCOTTH**  
As London except: 12.30-1.00am NB 3.05-4.45pm Film: The 1000 Paces Rad 5.45 Kats & Dog 6.15-6.40 The Campbells 10.40 Beauty

and the Beast 11.35 Film: Lady Sings the Blues 2.25am Film: The Satanic Rites of Dracula 4.00 America's Top Ten 4.30-5.00 The Twilight Zone

**TSW**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00am The South West Week 1.40-2.10 Katie and Dog 2.05-2.45 Film: The 1000 Paces Rad 10.40 Film: Leroy Sings the Blues 12.25am The Twilight Zone 2.05 The Hit Men and Her 4.05-5.05 America's Top Ten

**TVS**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00am Rally-cross 3.05-4.45pm Film: Escape of the Amethyst 10.40 Film: The Sted 12.25am Friday, the 13th 1.25 The Monsters Today 1.55 Raw Power 2.55 The Twilight Zone 3.20 Wrestling 4.05-5.05 The Hit Men and Her

**TYNE TEES**  
As London except: 2.10 Film: They Who Would Be King 1.20 Film: The Heat of the Night 2.05 The Hit Men and Her 4.05-5.05 America's Top Ten

**W** As HTV West except: No Variations

**SCOTTH**  
As London except: 12.30-1.00am NB 3.05-4.45pm Film: The 1000 Paces Rad 5.45 Kats & Dog 6.15-6.40 The Campbells 10.40 Beauty

and the Beast 11.35 Film: Lady Sings the Blues 2.25am Film: The Satanic Rites of Dracula 4.00 America's Top Ten 4.30-5.00 The Twilight Zone

**W** As London except: 12.30pm-1.00am The 1000 Paces Rad 10.40 Film: Lady Since the Blues 1.30pm The Twilight Zone 2.05 The Hit Men and Her 4.05-5.05 The Heat of the Night

**W** As London except: 1.20 Film: The Heat of the Night

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## SUNDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

## BBC 1

8.45 Open University  
8.55 Playdays  
9.15 Making Sense of Religion. Is there still a place for religion in the life of modern man? (1) 9.30 This is the Day. Simple worship from a viewer's home in London  
9.00 Balazar. Janice Long with rooms, household, beauty and fashion (b/w) Wales: Step Up to Woodpower 10.25 Take Nobody's Word for It. Science magazine (1)  
10.50 Business Matters. A profile of quality control expert Philip Crosby (1)  
11.15 Women Mean Business. Glenda Jackson looks at issues facing women returning to paid employment (1) (Ceefax) Wales: Time for Sport 11.40 Step Up to Woodpower. Reading and writing help for adults (Ceefax)  
12.05 Sign Extra. An edition of Antiques Roadshow from Peighton (1)  
12.30 County File. John Davies introduces a report on Cambridgeshire County Council's plan to sell off more than half of its 43,000 acres of high-quality farmland - so to the dismay of tenant farmers, conservationists and opposition politicians who see the proposals as a new blow to the Fens 12.55 Weather. Wales: Farming in Wales  
1.00 News with Mole Stuart. Followed by On the Record. Fiona Maude, Foreign Minister, discusses the Government's position on European political union  
2.00 The Settlers (1). (Ceefax)  
3.00 Five Swallows and Amazon (1974) starring Judi Dench, McEnroe and Ronald Fraser. A adaptation of a film set in the 1920s, based on Arthur Ransome's children's story about a family on holiday in the Lake District. Directed by Claude Whatham  
4.30 Eurovision Song Contest. Ken Bruce previews entries for this year's contest  
5.10 All Our Children. Part three of the series on children around the world features Brazilian Christina, whose only parent is in prison, American Richie, who moves between his twice-divorced mother and his ex-fathers, Indian Parameeshwar, whose construction worker parents pitch their tent whenever they can find work. Eddie from India has travelling family, and Friday who fled from Mozambique to Zambia when his parents were killed. (Ceefax)



George Cole as pensioner Glegger (10.00pm)

6.00 The Clothes Show. The show makes dreams come true as Tracey Emin and Peter Jackson's marriage is blessed at the pyramid of Theobalds in Egypt. The bride wears a Jeff Banks-designed dress, her done by Trevor Sophie, wears shoes by Jimmy Choo and jewellery crafted by the Royal College of Art  
6.25 News with Mole Stuart  
6.40 Songs of Praise from the East. Belfast Mission presented by Roger Royle. (Ceefax)  
7.15 All Creatures Great and Small. Good-natured vet drama, based on James Herriot's stories set in rural Yorkshire, starring Christopher Timothy and Robert Hardy. This evening, while the Hermitage are preparing to move to Rievaulx, James notices their finer pasturage is sickly (1) (Ceefax)  
8.05 The Black Adder. More cult comedy starring the rubber-faced Rowan Atkinson as the scheming courtier in the court of Richard IV. Tonight's episode Witchmaster Purvaise (Peter Fonda) is called in to deal with a touch of the Black Death which has struck down the king. With Tony Robinson, Stephen and Tim McInnerny (1). (Ceefax)  
8.35 Live from the University of Sheffield, where the contestants' specialist subjects are British-American musical theatre 1915-55, the life and works of Christopher Isherwood, the history of 20th-century astronomy and the life and career of David Lloyd George  
9.05 News with Marilyn Lewis. Weather  
9.20 That's Life! Esther Rantzen with more consumer investigations  
10.00 Single Voices. Gingers  
10.45 Miles away from Arthur Day in a singer-song-and-Scotsman accent, George Gingers (John Duttine) is here to tell us just what an over-40s club in the second of this high quality series of dramatic monologues. Alone after two broken marriages, and older than he is prepared to admit, Gingers deludes himself that he is still jack-the-lad, only to get his comeuppance among the walking, framed and tip-replacements. Written by the sitcom king, Bob Labey (The Good Life etc etc), Gingers is a carefully observed funny-eas-meditation on the illusions and realities of old age. Helped by the geographical variety of an ample set, Gingers plays the pieces splendidly and in an interesting experiment by the director, Guy Carter, Gingers also speaks straight to the camera

5.25 Rugby Special. Introduced by Chris Rees. Highlights of the crucial matches between Nottingham and Gloucester and Wasps and Saracens which will decide who succeeds Bath as Courage League champions.  
6.15 The Money Programme: The Silent Raider. A profile of the New Zealander who has kept very quiet about his increasing wealth in British companies - Sir Ron Bowes. He discusses his motives into trying to force Vickers into taking Rolls Royce  
6.55 Victoria Wood. The Way of the People  
7.00 This excellent series concludes its perceptive history of television by tracing their representation of Britain itself over the past four decades. In the Fifties, the sets portrayed a traditional and class-bound society heading back to pre-war stability. Then came National...  
12.25pm Weather

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12.25pm Weather

**RADIO 4**  
1.00 Concerto. FM Stereo and MW. Michael Tippett's King York 7.00 The Bruno and Jacqueline Newsome Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 12.20pm Paul O'Grady - Popwatch 1.00 The Big Breakfast 1.30 Radio 2 1.30 Radio 4 1.30 Radio 5 1.30 Radio 6 1.30 Radio 7 1.30 Radio 8 1.30 Radio 9 1.30 Radio 10 1.30 Radio 11 1.30 Radio 12 1.30 Radio 13 1.30 Radio 14 1.30 Radio 15 1.30 Radio 16 1.30 Radio 17 1.30 Radio 18 1.30 Radio 19 1.30 Radio 20 1.30 Radio 21 1.30 Radio 22 1.30 Radio 23 1.30 Radio 24 1.30 Radio 25 1.30 Radio 26 1.30 Radio 27 1.30 Radio 28 1.30 Radio 29 1.30 Radio 30 1.30 Radio 31 1.30 Radio 32 1.30 Radio 33 1.30 Radio 34 1.30 Radio 35 1.30 Radio 36 1.30 Radio 37 1.30 Radio 38 1.30 Radio 39 1.30 Radio 40 1.30 Radio 41 1.30 Radio 42 1.30 Radio 43 1.30 Radio 44 1.30 Radio 45 1.30 Radio 46 1.30 Radio 47 1.30 Radio 48 1.30 Radio 49 1.30 Radio 50 1.30 Radio 51 1.30 Radio 52 1.30 Radio 53 1.30 Radio 54 1.30 Radio 55 1.30 Radio 56 1.30 Radio 57 1.30 Radio 58 1.30 Radio 59 1.30 Radio 60 1.30 Radio 61 1.30 Radio 62 1.30 Radio 63 1.30 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1.30 Radio 600 1

# British Steel 11% pay deal adds to fears on inflation

By Kevin Eason

PRESSURE on wage inflation increased yesterday when British Steel announced rises worth 11 per cent for 17,000 key workers.

The increase will renew the anxieties of ministers raised earlier this year by the 10.2 per cent pay deal agreed with 32,000 Ford manual workers.

The increase comes at a critical time in the spring pay round with negotiations covering 100,000 workers in British Rail under way and union leaders representing 600,000 town hall staff also bidding for a deal in double figures.

The British Steel settlement will be seen as further evidence that double-figure rises are now the benchmark as inflation moves towards 9 per cent with mortgage rates high and the first community

charge bills due this month. Higher electricity, gas and water bills will also affect the Retail Price Index.

Workers in British Steel are being rewarded for record profits at the company which was privatized almost two years ago. Profits last year were up to £593 million contrasting with the early Eighties when the business was struggling to curb losses running at £1 million a day.

The company said it was seeking further efficiency improvements, a factor that will ease some of the fears of ministers who say rises must be backed by productivity gains.

British Steel will pay new money worth 7.5 per cent and consolidate 2 per cent of previous bonus earnings. There will be a one-off profits

bonus of £225, worth a further 1.5 per cent on present average wages of about £265 a week.

The agreement covers 17,000 workers in the major strip products division, which includes plants in Wales, such as Port Talbot and Llanwern, as well as Ravenscraig in Scotland, and is expected to provide the framework for agreements covering the rest of British Steel's 35,000 workers in three other divisions.

Meanwhile, rail workers are considering an offer of 9.3 per cent although were hoping for at least 10 per cent.

• Ford is recruiting dozens of workers to cover for absent staff on Mondays and Fridays at its biggest British plant at Dagenham, Essex.

The company said yesterday that the new staff would be required to work two days a week on Mondays and Fridays on day shift, or Monday and Thursday night shifts — the shifts hardest hit by absenteeism.

Advertising has started for staff who will be put on assembly lines in the trim and assembly areas, working mainly on the Fiesta series, for about £106 a week.

Ford stressed that absenteeism, running at about 7.5 per cent, was not considered a major problem among its 12,000 employees at Dagenham, and the factory has been hitting production targets throughout the year.

A company spokesman added, however: "It would be misleading to say that it was not an element."

The problem that has forced the recruitment drive is a dead, fixed during pay negotiations, for extra holiday entitlement which gives hundreds of workers three days more annually.

The previous holidays of 24 days could be contained within factory shutdown periods, but the new entitlement means many workers want to take their extra days either as a Monday or Friday.

Meanwhile, Rover is creating another 200 jobs at its Land-Rover plant at Solihull, West Midlands. Huge demand for its four-wheel drive Discovery vehicle has led to an increase in output from 400 to 600 vehicles a week.

Answers on page 13

that they feel they have been treated unfairly.

"These people come from old-fashioned families who have worked for the royal household for generations. Many are life-long Conservative supporters. Although they will be paying the second lowest community charge in England and Wales, they still believe they have been treated unfairly," Mr Simon Brockbank-Fowler, a Tory candidate in the St James's ward of Westminster City Council, said.

"They live in tattered accommodation, have never paid rates and earn appalling wages. They are hugely disillusioned and quite rightly so because they genuinely cannot afford to pay."

He has written to Mr Norman Lamont, MP and Chief Secretary at the Treasury, to protest on behalf of the palace staff. "The situation seems to us to be most unjust and not in accordance with the fine principles on which the community charge is based," the letter said.

Meanwhile, Rover is creating another 200 jobs at its Land-Rover plant at Solihull, West Midlands. Huge demand for its four-wheel drive Discovery vehicle has led to an increase in output from 400 to 600 vehicles a week.

## Revolt on poll tax brews at palace

By Ray Clancy

IN THE sedate corridors of Buckingham Palace a most unlikely revolt is brewing over the community charge. The 150 employees who have never contributed to local services through the rates are furious that they will have to pay the new tax.

Their anger could lead to a local election upset next Thursday for the Conservatives who need every vote they can get to keep control of Westminster City Council. Although the poll tax at £195 is the second lowest in England and Wales by not voting or voting for another party, palace employees could swing the result in a key marginal ward.

Their grievance has emerged during canvassing for the elections and has prompted many of the "life-long" Tory voters to consider boycotting polling stations.

Cochmen, stable boys and girls, porters and other workers who earn around £5,000 a year but have free accommodation, have told councillors during a specially arranged pre-election surgery

that they feel they have been treated unfairly.

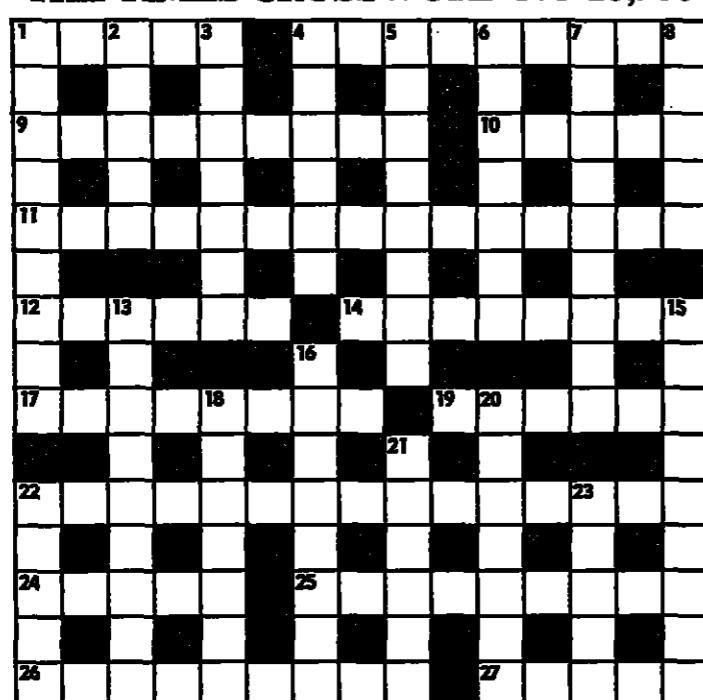
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## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,280



### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

#### INQUINATE

- a. Without male heirs
- b. Divisible by a factor of five
- c. To defile

#### CATION

- a. A conscious drive
- b. An allied trade
- c. Juggling trickery

#### GYNECOMORPHOUS

- a. Mysogynist
- b. Hermaphroditic
- c. Formed as a woman

#### CORDON VERT

- a. Vegetarian cookery
- b. A low grade of kimono
- c. The Parisian green belt

Answers on page 13

### TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex...701

Dorset, Hants & IOW...702

Devon & Cornwall...703

Wiltshire, Avon, Somerset...705

Berks, Bucks, Oxon...706

Beds, Herts & Essex...707

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs...708

West Mid & St. G & Wem...709

Shropshire & Worcs...710

Central Midlands...711

LinCs & Humberside...712

Dyfed & Powys...714

Gwynedd & Chwyd...715

W & S Yorks & Dales...716

N. E. England...718

Cumbria & Lake District...719

S. W. Scotland...720

W. Central Scotland...721

East & S. Firth of Forth & Borders...722

Central Scotland...723

Grampian & E. Highlands...724

N. W. Scotland...725

Caithness, Orkney & Shetland...726

N. Ireland...727

Weatherfax is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (normal rate) and 10p for 12 seconds (off peak).

### AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within M 25 Circ.)...731

M-ways/roads M4-M1...732

M-ways/roads M1-Darford T...733

M-ways/roads Darford T-M23...734

M-ways/roads M23-M4...735

M25 London Orbital only...736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (normal rate) and 10p for 12 seconds (off peak).

### ACROSS

1 Brought to court, broke right away... (3,2).

4 PhD in real trouble in court (9).

9 Girl accepts Spanish boy's cigarette (9).

10 No 1 Rugby-player was diabolical, not using either wing (5).

11 Near figures of wranglers (4,11).

12 Bespectacled bachelors is team's opening player (6).

14 Near butter-maker for the royal table (8).

17 Tiny peas are fresh, having tendency to grow faster on top (8).

19 Surface of a soft fruit (6).

22 Owner at Rhyd — daffs coming out, it's the country air! (4,2,7,7).

24 A watery rainbow? (5).

25 Ravel-type arrangement requiring solid strings? (9).

26 Promoted to president and handed over (9).

27 Cowboy's home-cooking area (5).

### Concise crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 18,274.

CONSPIRACY CROWD

COA AOA EIE

COVERPOINT AVON

HAAT D O E C

PROD CALLFORTH

M BIR F E F S E

AVOCATION ATRSUS

G R P C H

NETTLE LOVELACE

A W O C R R N R

GROSENGHOM EMMA

A T I T H E C O

RUIN APOLLONIAN

T M L I R R U

ABED REGAROLESS

50

INCUBI EPILOGUE

N R R P E J N Y

FLYFISHER GROVE

E S T I S H C H

CATCALL OPTICAL

T A N A M H Y

EILEEN NEARCTIC

D I T L A B

SERAPHIC SIDE

S M R O B E T

TOBACCO LEATHER

URR PUNIA

PRONE IMMODESTY

DOLOMITE CAREER

50

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Sale by Sleepy Kids

SLEEPY Kids, the Third Market animated cartoon company, has sold the rights of *Potsworth & Co.*, the children's cartoon series, to the BBC for an undisclosed sum. The 13-week series will be shown at the end of this year and will be the group's first screening on British television.

*Potsworth* is being developed with Hanna-Barbera and will be shown in the US in September. The BBC has taken an option on a second series. The group expects to move on to the US by the end of this year. Its shares were unchanged at 33p on the news. They floated in July last year at 20p.

## Interim drop for Summer Assets Trust to pay more

SUMMER International saw pre-tax profits slump to £62,000 in the six months to March from £1 million. Sales fell from £9.35 million to £3.66 million because of the sale of the Linguarama language school. Earnings per share fell from 7.8p to 0.2p but the interim dividend is held at 0.5p.

## Global Group now in profit

THE transformation of Global Group, the Unlisted Securities Market shipping services to property company, took another step as the group revealed pre-tax profits of £19,000 in the seven months to end-December, compared with a loss of £2.6 million in the year to end-May 1989.

The company changed its year-end from May to December after the reverse takeover by EIC, the warehousing, distribution, freezing and cold storage specialist, at the end of last year. Earnings per share stand at 1.2p.

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg'ge (£)	Yearly chg'ge (£)	Daily chg'ge (US\$)	Yearly chg'ge (US\$)	Daily chg'ge (US\$)	Yearly chg'ge (US\$)
The World (free)	700.7	-0.2	-16.9	0.0	-13.0	-0.3	-15.9
133.8	-0.2	-17.0	-0.1	-13.1	-0.3	-16.0	
1219.3	-0.4	-21.8	-0.3	-16.8	-0.5	-20.8	
125.0	-0.5	-22.1	-0.5	-17.0	-0.5	-21.1	
Europe (free)	718.3	-0.8	-5.6	-0.7	-6.1	-0.9	-4.4
151.6	-0.8	-5.4	-1.0	-6.2	-0.9	-4.2	
Nth America	488.4	-0.1	-7.4	-0.1	-6.2	-0.1	-6.2
Nordic (free)	1485.7	-3.4	-4.4	-0.3	-4.7	-0.5	-3.1
Pacific	234.9	-0.5	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-1.2
Far East	279.7	-0.2	-30.9	0.0	-23.1	-0.3	-30.0
Australia	3955.1	-0.1	-31.4	0.0	-23.5	-0.2	-30.5
Austria	288.3	-1.6	-17.0	-0.7	-11.4	-1.7	-15.9
Belgium	1920.1	-1.7	-29.2	-1.4	30.4	-1.8	30.9
Canada	907.9	-0.4	-7.8	-0.3	-8.8	-0.5	-6.6
Denmark	506.0	0.2	-15.7	0.4	-14.2	0.1	-14.6
Finland	1309.5	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	-2.0	-0.2	0.8
France	99.5	0.1	-13.7	0.1	-14.0	0.0	-12.6
Germany	136.5	0.1	-8.4	0.1	-5.7	0.0	-7.2
Hong Kong	632.8	-0.5	-3.0	-0.4	1.8	-0.6	4.3
Italy	933.7	-0.4	1.7	-0.4	2.4	-0.5	3.0
Japan	2330.8	-0.5	5.1	-0.5	6.2	-0.6	6.4
New Zealand	355.0	0.3	-0.1	0.4	-1.6	0.3	1.2
Norway	1457.3	-0.1	-32.4	0.0	-24.3	-0.2	-31.6
Switzerland	570.0	-1.0	-8.0	-1.0	-7.7	-1.1	-8.8
UK	55.3	-2.0	-17.3	-1.4	-13.3	-2.1	-16.2
USA	1477.6	-0.5	10.1	-0.4	10.5	-0.6	11.5
Sing/Malay	258.1	-0.7	10.5	-0.5	10.9	-0.8	11.9
Spain	1855.1	-0.7	-6.9	-0.7	-6.9	-0.8	-5.7
Sweden	2150.0	-0.3	-8.8	-0.2	-10.2	-0.4	-7.8
UK	1626.7	-0.8	-7.3	-0.5	-7.4	-0.6	-6.1
USA	233.0	-0.8	-3.8	-0.7	-4.0	-0.9	-2.5
UK	220.9	-0.5	-5.9	-0.5	-5.8	-0.6	-4.7
USA	131.7	-0.5	-5.6	-0.5	-5.4	-0.6	-4.4
UK	624.5	-1.6	-13.4	-1.6	-13.4	-1.6	-12.3
USA	451.1	-0.1	-6.6	-0.2	-5.5	-0.2	-5.5

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

## Consumer prices show biggest rise in eight years

## Tokyo interest rates under pressure on 2.9% inflation

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

FIGURES showing the biggest jump in Japanese consumer prices in eight years and the tightest labour market since the early 1970s have rekindled fears of inflation in Japan's still booming economy, and dashed any hope of an early dip in Japanese interest rates.

But economists and government officials say that although the labour shortage will boost wage rates, and the weak yen is increasing the price of imports, inflation is a matter of concern, not a cause for panic — yet.

Japan's consumer prices rose 2.9 per cent in the fiscal year to end-March.

Although envably low to other countries, it was the biggest annual increase in Japan since a 4 per cent jump in 1981-82 and higher than the 2.7 per cent expected by the government. Economists said

1.25 percentage points of the increase could be blamed on the 3 per cent sales tax, introduced at the beginning of the last fiscal year.

More ominous were figures showing that consumer prices in Tokyo, regarded as a reliable indicator of nationwide trends, rose by 2.8 per cent in April, higher than analysts had expected, considering that the new sales tax should have worked itself out of the year-on-year comparisons.

The policy conclusion, said Mr Robert Feldman, economist with Salomon Brothers, the US securities house, in Tokyo, "is that Japan's tight monetary policy will continue for a while. The authorities won't tighten policy just as a result of this, but they cannot afford to ease it either."

Adding to inflation worries

omy will be offset by squeezed profit margins, a slight increase in the value of the yen and a slowdown in the economy in the second half of this year.

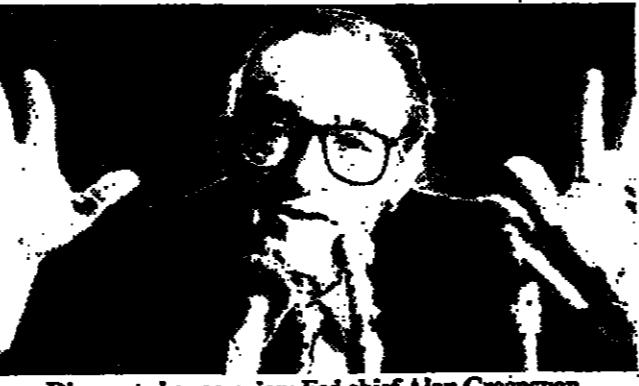
But even so, says Mr Jones, "monetary policy will remain tight and an interest rate cut is unlikely until late this year or early next year."

If optimists believe that Japan's key discount rate, which has been increased twice since December in a battle to defend the faltering yen, may have to stay at its present level of 5.25 per cent for a while, pessimists fear it might have to rise further to keep inflation at bay.

The pessimists say pressure on Japanese borrowing costs will rise if future interest rate increases in West Germany or America send the yen reeling again.

## UB paying £86m for Dutch firm

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor



Discounted a recession: Fed chief Alan Greenspan

ment said that unusually warm weather at the start of the year helped the building industry and stemmed demand for imported oil, which had reached worrying levels during a cold spell in December.

The sub-freezing temperatures were also held responsible for a GNP-related rise in inflation to an annual rate of 6.5 per cent. Inflation in the fourth quarter of 1989 was 4.5 per cent.

Fears that the United States could be rolling toward recession were fanned when the

United Biscuits (UB) has agreed terms for the acquisition of Koninklijke Verkade, a quoted Dutch biscuits and confectionery manufacturer, thus opening the way for UB's entry into continental biscuit production.

Verkade's board is recommending an offer by UB of £140m (£129 per share), valuing it at £86 million. A green light was needed from the Verkade works council and this has been given. Talks with trade unions had also been favourably completed.

UB sees the Netherlands as a bridgehead for its penetration of continental Europe.

Although it has extensive operations in the US, UB has little manufacturing presence on the Continent.

Verkade is the market leader in biscuits in the Netherlands, with a fifth of the market and is number two in chocolate bars.

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Open	Close	Chg	Vol	Open	Close	Chg	Vol
ABP (1991)	420	420	0	10	420	420	0	10
ABP (1992)	110	110	0	25	110	110	0	25
ABP (1993)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (1994)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (1995)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (1996)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (1997)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (1998)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (1999)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2000)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2001)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2002)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2003)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2004)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2005)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2006)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2007)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2008)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2009)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2010)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2011)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2012)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2013)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2014)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2015)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2016)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2017)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2018)	220	220	0	25	220	220	0	25
ABP (2019)	220</td							

# Monks & Crane agrees to £16m bid by German firm

By Jeremy Andrews

THE West German Wurth Group is offering £16.7 million for Monks & Crane, another distributor of fasteners and tools based in West Bromwich, West Midlands.

The 93p per share agreed terms are 82 per cent higher than the market price before the offer and Wurth has acceptances for a third of the equity from Monks' board and Sumit, the venture capital concern that backed the management buyout of Monks from Thorn EMI in 1983.

After arriving on the Unlisted Securities Market five years ago, Monks' profits rose from £721,000 in 1984-5 to

£2.51 million in the 12 months to March 1989. However, profits in the half year to last September fell by 43 per cent to £702,000 and in August the company revealed that it was in talks about a possible bid.

In December Monks announced that discussions had been terminated and the shares fell to a low of 40p last month.

Mr Albert Spacie, the chairman and chief executive who joined Monks as a salesman 34 years ago, said that Wurth was not one of the potential bidders with whom the company was talking last year, but its offer is pitched at about the

same level as the aborted bid. Wurth, which was founded by Herr Adolf Wurth in 1945, has 700,000 customers in 33 countries, mostly car repair shops, or joinery and metalworking businesses. In 1988, it had sales of DM1.55 billion (£563 million) and retained profits of DM66.7 million. By contrast, Monks' sales to its 30,000 customers were only £47 million in 1988-89.

Monks' trading problems followed a reorganization which consolidated warehousing for its one site in West Bromwich. The expense of the operation coincided with a sharp downturn in demand from the construction industry, which accounts for one third of Monks' sales. Profits for the year to March 1990 will be disclosed in the offer document, which will be posted in the next fortnight.

Net assets amounted to 46p per share in March 1989 and earnings in that year were 9.4p. In addition to the 93p cash terms, there is a partial loan note alternative and shareholders will receive a special 1.3p dividend in July provided the bid goes unconditional. The bid is above 77p at which the shares were placed on the USM, but well below the 250p peak in 1987 before the stock market crash.

## CU £4m makes Anglia secure

By Michael Tate  
Deputy City Editor

THE future of Anglia Secure Homes, the retirement housing group, has effectively been underwritten by Commercial Union Life Assurance, which has agreed to inject up to £4.25 million into the company as part of a refinancing package.

The insurer will pay £1.1 million for a 49 per cent stake in Haven Services, Anglia's fast-growing services operation, acquire a 5 per cent stake in Anglia itself, at 95p a share, and co-underwrite a 30 per cent chunk of Anglia's new £7.7 million rights issue.

CU will emerge with at least 4.5 per cent of the Anglia, and possibly as much as 14.1 per cent. It has agreed not to dispose of any shares for at least two years.

Terms of the rights issue are one share for every two held, at 70p each. Although that is above last Monday's 65p suspension price, Anglia evidently believes that the purchase by CU at 95p will reassure small shareholders.

It was not immediately clear what action Anglia's biggest shareholder, British & Commonwealth, with 23 per cent of the equity, would take over the rights issue.

Mr Peter Edmondson, the Anglia chairman and one of the company's founders in 1982, unveiled pre-tax losses of £2.86 million for the six months to end-March, compared with a profit of £2.76 million a year ago, and axed the interim dividend.

However, he stressed Anglia had not run into financial difficulties, although gearing is currently 165 per cent, and will still be above 100 per cent after the rights issue. "Our borrowings are controlled and in line with our business plan, and we are under no pressure from our bankers," he said. "Anglia does appear to have



Prayers answered: Anglia's Peter Edmondson at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday

## LIT loss exceeds forecast by £5m

By Colin Campbell

LIT HOLDINGS, the financial services group led by Mr Christopher Castlemore, chief executive, has turned in an attributable loss of £17.6 million for the year ended October 13, and in London, LIT Futures recorded a small operating loss.

"We have gone for cash review," said Mr Edmondson. Although the group will need another £5 million to complete the remaining 400 units this year, he believes

gear will be down to less

than 75 per cent by the September year-end.

Behind the decision to link with CU is the explosion in the retirement market. There

will be two million over-80s

by the end of the century and 11 million over-65s. "This

arrangement will give us access to a vast client base," said Mr Edmondson.

run a tighter ship than many

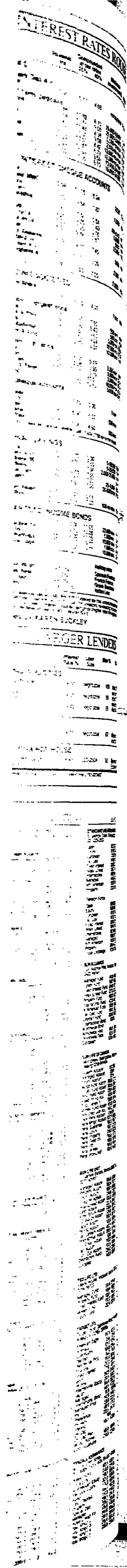
property development ventures, having written off £16 million of capitalised interest

last year and a further £1.7 million in the latest interim figures. It has also deferred any new building projects.

Anglia said 200 units to be

against 100 in the comparable





## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your latest share price movements on this page only. Add the price paid to our running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Gain or loss
1	ASDA Group (am)	Foods
2	Bass (am)	Industrials E-K
3	Boss (am)	Breweries
4	Erskine Mac	Industrials E-K
5	Ulster TV	Leisure
6	Style	Shoes, Leather
7	Wood (Arthur)	Industrials S-Z
8	P.E. International	Electricals
9	Augill (am)	Foods
10	Buckingham Ind	Leisure
11	Yale & Voter	Industrials S-Z
12	Rank Org (am)	Industrials L-R
13	Bibby (J)	Industrials A-D
14	St Mabyn	Textiles
15	JS Partnership	Industrials E-K
16	Berry & WA (am)	Leisure
17	Swiss Pacific 'A'	Industrials S-Z
18	Stanley	Building, Roads
19	Fykes	Foods
20	Boddington	Breweries
21	Minic GP	Industrials L-R
22	Castrol Plc	Drugs, Stores
23	Corring Kerr	Industrials E-K
24	Empire Stores	Drugs, Stores
25	Russell (A)	Industrials L-R
26	Prop Security	Property
27	Haden Macmillan	Industrials E-K
28	Moss Bros	Drugs, Stores
29	Domino	Electricals
30	TSB (am)	Banks, Discount
31	Community Hospital	Industrials A-D
32	Smith David	Paper, Print, Adv
33	Heywood Williams	Building, Roads
34	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z
35	Coxson PLC	Building, Roads
36	Quobus	Electricals
37	McKechine	Industrials L-R
38	Wembury	Leisure
39	Nobo Go	Industrials L-R
40	Johnson Press	Paper, Print, Adv
41	Lanes (am)	Motors-Aircraft
42	Bedrux	Foods
43	Emerson Gm	Property
44	Johnstones Paints	Painters, Paints, Pub
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sunday Total

Two shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Mary Harper, of Warrington, Cheshire, and Mr Dennis Myatt, of Beckenham, Kent, each receive £1,000.

### BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change %p. %d. %y.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%p.	%d.	%y.
125	TSB	200	195	195	195	-10	-5	-5	1989
126	TSB	195	190	190	190	-10	-5	-5	1989
127	TSB	190	185	185	185	-10	-5	-5	1989
128	TSB	185	180	180	180	-10	-5	-5	1989
129	TSB	180	175	175	175	-10	-5	-5	1989
130	TSB	175	170	170	170	-10	-5	-5	1989
131	TSB	170	165	165	165	-10	-5	-5	1989
132	TSB	165	160	160	160	-10	-5	-5	1989
133	TSB	160	155	155	155	-10	-5	-5	1989
134	TSB	155	150	150	150	-10	-5	-5	1989
135	TSB	150	145	145	145	-10	-5	-5	1989
136	TSB	145	140	140	140	-10	-5	-5	1989
137	TSB	140	135	135	135	-10	-5	-5	1989
138	TSB	135	130	130	130	-10	-5	-5	1989
139	TSB	130	125	125	125	-10	-5	-5	1989
140	TSB	125	120	120	120	-10	-5	-5	1989
141	TSB	120	115	115	115	-10	-5	-5	1989
142	TSB	115	110	110	110	-10	-5	-5	1989
143	TSB	110	105	105	105	-10	-5	-5	1989
144	TSB	105	100	100	100	-10	-5	-5	1989
145	TSB	100	95	95	95	-10	-5	-5	1989
146	TSB	95	90	90	90	-10	-5	-5	1989
147	TSB	90	85	85	85	-10	-5	-5	1989
148	TSB	85	80	80	80	-10	-5	-5	1989
149	TSB	80	75	75	75	-10	-5	-5	1989
150	TSB	75	70	70	70	-10	-5	-5	1989
151	TSB	70	65	65	65	-10	-5	-5	1989
152	TSB	65	60	60	60	-10	-5	-5	1989
153	TSB	60	55	55	55	-10	-5	-5	1989
154	TSB	55	50	50	50	-10	-5	-5	1989
155	TSB	50	45	45	45	-10	-5	-5	1989
156	TSB	45	40	40	40	-10	-5	-5	1989
157	TSB	40	35	35	35	-10	-5	-5	1989
158	TSB	35	30	30	30	-10	-5	-5	1989
159	TSB	30	25	25	25	-10	-5	-5	1989
160	TSB	25	20	20	20	-10	-5	-5	1989
161	TSB	20	15	15	15	-10	-5	-5	1989
162	TSB	15	10	10	10	-10	-5	-5	1989
163	TSB	10	5	5	5	-10	-5	-5	1989
164	TSB	5	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
165	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
166	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
167	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
168	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
169	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
170	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
171	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
172	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
173	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
174	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
175	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
176	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
177	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
178	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
179	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
180	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
181	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
182	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
183	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
184	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
185	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
186	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
187	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
188	TSB	0	0	0	0	-10	-5	-5	1989
189									

## THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

**UNLISTED SECURITIES**

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

## مكتاب الأصل

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY APRIL 28 1990

# SIB investigates former solicitor after complaints

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

THE Securities and Investments Board has begun to investigate the affairs of Mr Anthony Weldon Tubbs, a former solicitor, after complaints from clients.

Mr Tubbs, who was struck off for using clients' money in August 1971, went on to sell Allied Dunbar investment products for 10 years. The SIB investigation does not centre on the business carried out for the investment group, but that done since he parted company with Allied Dunbar in December.

However, the case highlights inadequacies in the vetting of tied agents by insurance companies. Under the Financial Services Act, appointed representatives are policed by the insurance companies whose products they sell instead of directly by the regulatory organizations. The companies have a duty to make sure that their agents are fit and proper people.

Details of Mr Tubbs' being struck off the roll of solicitors were a matter of public record, but did not show up in the checks made by Allied Dunbar.

SIB has heard from several elderly investors who claim to have placed money with Mr Tubbs. These investments would not be covered by the Investors' Compensation Scheme as Mr Tubbs was not authorized. Mr Tubbs operates from three addresses in Cornwall, Hampshire and London. He stopped being authorized to sell investment products when his agreement with Allied Dunbar was terminated.

To continue in business under the Act, he would either have had to become the agent of another insurance com-

pany, or have applied to one of the self-regulatory organizations, such as the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra), and then have waited until it processed his application and decided whether he was fit and proper to carry out investment business. It is illegal to carry on investment business before such authorization.

A spokeswoman for Fimbra said a basic search of its computer records showed no sign of an application from Mr Tubbs. He was struck off in 1971 for using client money totalling £65,900, and originated from his home in Bar Road, Heaton Passage, Falmouth, an office in 80 Elbury Street, London SW1, and his home in Bramshot near Liphook, Hampshire.

The SIB said this week that it had received complaints from investors and wanted to hear from anyone who had "information on any investment business carried on by him."

A telephone call to the office in Elbury Street was answered by a Miss Clegg, who said that she was Mr Tubbs' secretary. She said his business was "selling insurance and pensions," but was uncertain whether he was the tied agent of a single insurance company or an independent broker.

A woman who answered the telephone at the Falmouth address said: "Very sorry, no comment, goodbye."

The records department of the Law Society said Mr Tubbs was struck off on August 12, 1971, for "utilizing for his own purpose money held and received by him on behalf of clients." A shortage of £65,900 in the clients' account was recorded. Forty-one cheques had been drawn in favour of Mr Tubbs' wife.

Mr Tubbs, who had worked for Leonard Tabbs & Co at 19 Cavendish Place, London W1, at the time he was struck off, told the inquiry that he was "wholly responsible" for the shortfall.

In addition, he had supplied accounts late and given the accountants' documents "which he had falsely created," according to the records. No appeal was made.

A spokesman for Allied Dunbar said: "We parted company simply because Mr Tubbs was not writing much business with us and hadn't been for a while."

He said the company had taken up several references supplied by Mr Tubbs "all of which appeared to be totally satisfactory."

He added: "We have gone right back in the light of the SIB enquiries and are satisfied that we did the thing thoroughly. We have not identified any short cuts." But he confirmed that the company would not knowingly take on an agent who had been struck off as a solicitor for utilizing client funds.

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation has required National Financial Management Corporation, a subsidiary of TSB, to carry out an audit of all its tied agents after the collapse of Garston Amburst, one of its agents.

Within days, Property Equity and Law was publicly reprimanded for failing to exercise control over its agents. Irish Life has been required to carry out compliance reviews of its 300 appointed representatives.

## Recompense ruled out

By Jon Ashworth

THE Isle of Man government has said it will not pay compensation to investors in the Savings & Investment Bank, after the trial of former employees and agents of the bank was abandoned.

Proceedings were halted this week after submissions that a fair trial was impossible. The bank collapsed in 1982.

It had been thought that the decision would free up to £8 million set aside for trial costs to be distributed to investors, but the government said this was "pure speculation."

Mr Fred Kissack, chief secretary of the government's

executive council, said: "Our stance has always been that we will not be making payments to depositors. This is not because we cannot afford it, but because we do not think we have a responsibility in this matter."

He added that the case had cost the government at least £3.5 million.

The decision not to pay will dash the hopes of the 4,000 depositors who lost up to £42 million in the collapse. A payment of 15p in the pound is due to be made by the liquidators within the next three months.

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2. Details of the Dunedin Investment Trusts Savings Plan. The booklet contains application form.
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# Raising freehold hopes for flat owners

ANDREW BOURNE

OWNERS of flats have launched a campaign to lobby for the right to buy the freehold of their property for a price fixed by a defined formula (Lindsay Cook writes).

As leases diminish, flat owners can face difficulties selling their properties, especially where there is less than 50 years to run.

The Commonhold flats Campaign, set up under the auspices of the Building Societies Association, wants to recruit up to half a million flat owners said its chairman, Mr Mike Scott, the television presenter (seated), who launched the campaign with fellow members this week.

The Law Commission is drafting a bill to reform the law on leasehold flats.

The CFC's address is 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BL.



## Investors meet silence over BCCI

By Barbara Ellis

City regulators are severely restricted as to what they can tell potential investors who enquire about Bank of Credit & Commerce International.

Self-regulation rules out any mention of drug-money laundering trials or discussion of the reasons for a long-term failure to gain authorization for investment business. But ordinary people might seek such matters relevant — remote as they may be from BCCI's British operations.

Next week, BCCI is to launch a second affinity credit card, promising to donate 25p for every £100 spent to a charity for disabled sports people. Its Greencard was launched last November with the declared aim of giving 30p per £100 to environmental causes. So far, 60,000 cardholders have signed up.

But anyone unfamiliar with BCCI who seeks to check its credentials with

either the Bank of England or Imro, the Investment Managers Regulatory Organization, will be met with a less elaborate reply.

Those who approach the bank for information may receive a selective response, for which they will be unable to obtain authoritative confirmation. For example, a glance at the Securities and Investments Board's central register shows BCCI, Leadenhall Street, as operating under interim authorization from the SIB, pending vetting of its application to join Imro, lodged two years ago.

An Imro spokesman would make no comment on BCCI beyond confirming that it is the last remaining Imro applicant with only interim authorization, and, as far as investment management business is concerned, is not covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme.

However, Mr Basheer Chowdry, general manager of BCCI, appeared to

believe that the bank was covered by the ICS, saying incorrectly: "That is the point of interim authorization." Investors in interim authorized firms are never covered by the compensation scheme. Claiming that BCCI did a negligible amount of investment business, he said the bank wanted to have the service available in its stable.

Mr Chowdry added that BCCI was seeking full authorization:

He said: "We have not been rejected. I want to make it very clear, Imro actually wanted the US matter to finish first."

This reference was to one of the BCCI group bank's loss of a licence to operate in Florida after a bargain in which the Cayman Islands-based BCCI (Overseas) pleaded guilty to charges of laundering drug money and paid a \$15 million fine in February. The trial of five former overseas BCCI employees is continuing.

As far as we are concerned, the

matter is finished," said Mr Chowdry, adding that although BCCI had not yet approached Imro again, it intended doing so soon. "Our Luxembourg parent bank was not on trial," he said, noting that the Florida case had involved "early junior people."

According to Mr Chowdry, BCCI is operating "very normally" in 73 countries. "The Bank of England is fully in the picture about the operations of BCCI," he added.

A Bank of England spokesman said that BCCI's British branches are authorized by the Bank as branches of the group's Luxembourg parent bank. Deposits with them are therefore covered by the Deposit Holders Protection Scheme.

He added that callers to the public information office at the Bank could only be told whether banks were authorized or not. Although the office did not log calls, he remembered few concerning BCCI.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Charities find affinity to tax change

THE Government is poised to announce changes to the way in which affinity credit cards are taxed which would mean thousands of extra pounds for charities (Jon Ashworth writes).

Donations made by affinity cards are subject to VAT, and it has been feared that corporation tax could also be levied. The Charities Tax

Reform Group, which has lobbied for changes, said an announcement on the matter is "imminent."

It is hoped that tax on donations will be abolished in some cases, or reduced in others. This is likely to depend on whether the card company receives a service in return for its donation. Distributing leaflets with the company's name

on is one example. Some issuers have paid VAT due on their donations as a gesture of goodwill, but have been lobbying for changes.

The Leeds Permanent Building Society, which has donated £1 million to charity, said the 1990 Budget had "muddled the waters" and left charities and donors uncertain where they stand.

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Lindsay Cook looks at historical cases cited in the Insurance Ombudsman's report

# Relying on old precedents to avoid paying claimants

READING the first annual report of Dr Julian Farrand, the new Insurance Ombudsman, published this week, you could gain the impression that some insurance companies will do anything to avoid paying out.

Taking refuge in High Court precedents reaching back into the last century is one route taken by the insurers. Two cases are detailed where insurance companies refused to pay out on claims for items purchased abroad because the owners had not paid duty on them when they returned to Britain.

Both companies said it would be contrary to public policy to meet the claims in such circumstances.

This referred to the Dr Crippen case in 1892, in which it was ruled that "if a contract is made contrary to public policy, or if the performance of a contract would be contrary to public policy, performance cannot be enforced either at law or in equity."

But Dr Farrand found: "In neither of the two cases which reached me was there any fact sufficient to establish, even on a balance of probabilities, that the policyholder had committed a criminal offence in respect of the claim." However, he added: "Nevertheless, even if there were (and I am not so naive as to think



"innocent smugglers" a common breed) this should not necessarily justify rejection of a claim."

Dr Farrand relied on more recent case law: a precedent set in 1987 which established that a claim may be regarded as "tainted by illegality" if it were "so closely connected with the proceeds of crime as

to offend the conscience of the court."

A third case was referred to the Ombudsman this week. It involves a holidaymaker who bought a leather jacket in Italy, which was stolen while he was in Spain. "The insurance company refused to pay out on the grounds that he had not paid duty on the

jacket when he travelled from Italy to Spain," said Dr Farrand.

"It is not my job to help the collection of duty by a foreign country. He had insurance and made a claim. It seems that the insurance company did not believe that the jacket was bought. Someone in the company had an instinct

about the case. I say never mind that, look at the facts. The policyholder could show that the jacket had been bought and that he went through the red channel but was not required to pay duty when he arrived in Spain."

Insurance companies have often refused to pay out claims for loss of property through fraud, citing a 1955 case. This held that if a person sold a car to someone whose cheque bounced, the seller did not lose the car, but the proceeds of the sale, which were not covered by the policy.

A Court of Appeal decision last year, however, cleared the way for some claims to be met in these cases, said Dr Farrand.

The report showed a 23 per cent increase in complaints with life policies accounting for a quarter. The number of claims found in favour of the policyholder had risen to 31 per cent compared with an average of 20 per cent under Dr Farrand's predecessor, Mr James Haswell.

## Conman broker case may be referred

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS who lost more than £300,000 to a conman may take their case to the insurance Ombudsman.

Andrew Maher, aged 31, was jailed for four years at Southwark Crown Court last week, for selling forged policy documents between October 1986 and June 1988. Now, one of the life assurance companies, National Provident Institution (NPI), has urged at least one of the 19 investors involved to seek compensation from the Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand.

Maher applied for Capital Investment

Bonds issued by NPI and at least three other insurers, removed the names, changed the numbers and sold them on to his clients. He insisted that cheques be made payable to him, leaving investors holding worthless policies.

The scam came to light when people began calling NPI to ask about their investments. Maher, described as "a big spender who liked champagne" was arrested in January 1989 and charged with fraud.

One investor alone lost £70,000. Others included newspapers and car

workers who had been made redundant or taken early retirement.

NPI is sympathetic, but said the matter should go to the Ombudsman. "We can't give £300,000 away just because we are sympathetic. This is the sort of thing we became members of the Ombudsman scheme for."

The case proves how easy it is to be taken in by official-looking documents. A call to the life assurance company is one way of making sure all is in order. The real solution is to make the cheque out to the company and not the broker.

## BRIEFINGS

■ The Halifax Building Society launches a new investment account next week with non-tax payers in mind. Gross Interest Xtra will pay a top rate of 15.67 per cent on an investment of £50,000. The rate of interest falls on a sliding scale to 9 per cent on deposits of £999 or less. Customers who can certify themselves as non-taxpayers will receive interest gross after 6 April 1991, when the composite rate tax paid by the building societies is due to be abolished.

■ Two new accounts which are designed for children will be launched by Lloyds Bank next week. The Young Savers Account, which replaces the Black Horse Young Savers Account, is designed for those who are aged under 13. It pays interest of 10 per cent net on £500, and more on higher balances. Headway, a current account for teenagers, pays 7 per cent net interest and includes a cashpoint card. Lloyds is presenting its new customers with a welcome pack.

■ Gartmore has merged two of its specialist American unit trusts to form a new fund focusing on United States smaller companies. The Gartmore American Emerging Growth Trust, which will focus on income rather than growth, has more than 1,500 unit holders and £9.9 million of funds under management. Gartmore says that smaller companies in the United States have been out of favour for several years, and are as cheap now as they were in 1977.

■ Life insurance policyholders in Britain are better off than those on the Continent, according to the Association of British Insurers. With-profits endowments have turned in better results over 10 years or more, compared with those of companies in other European Community countries. German and Danish companies performed better on terms up to 25 years, but not by much the association says.

■ Commercial Union has launched a mortgage repayment scheme linked to a personal equity plan. The scheme, CU Taxsave Homeplan, has a string of charges, including a plan fee of £2 a month plus VAT and an annual administration charge of 0.5 per cent of the PEP value. Unit trust charges are 6 per cent initially and 1 per cent annually, and there is a 6 per cent bid/offer spread. Contributions start at £30 a month. On plans taken out for

25 years or more, all premiums in the first year will go reinvested.

■ Next week, the Town & Country Building Society is raising the interest rate on its expatriate mortgage scheme from 15.4 per cent to 15.9 per cent. The scheme is designed for British nationals who are working abroad but who wish to purchase a property in Britain which can be let while they are overseas. Loans of up to three times annual income are available, up to 95 per cent of the selling price or valuation, depending on which of

the two figures is the lower.

■ A mortgage with an interest rate fixed at 13.75 per cent for three years has been launched by a specialist mortgage broker in Leeds, West Yorkshire. The broker, Miss Gargett, has fixed the rate for loans of £20,000 or more. To cut the interest rates even further, borrowers can defer 3 per cent of the interest for each of the 3 years, or defer 5 per cent for years one and two. The company has set aside £4 million for the offer, and expects funds to go quickly.

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## TSB targets expatriates in Spain

A SAVINGS package which combines nine investment funds with a high interest cheque account was launched in Jersey this week (Jon Ashworth writes). The Managed Capital Account, launched by the offshore branch of TSB, will be exclusively marketed to UK expatriates living in Spain. Investors can choose be-

tween a high or low risk portfolio, or one which combines the two.

A high interest cheque account which pays interest gross every quarter is part of the deal. Quarterly statements will show the value of any investments in the funds as well as any account balance. The top rate of interest on the account is 15 per cent gross, and the minimum balance is £2,000.

The idea is to give expatriate investors a cheque account for day-to-day use which sits alongside a range of investment funds aiming for long-term income and capital growth. Six free withdrawals are allowed each quarter from the cheque account, but any more will cost £1 each.

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## CRUSTS &amp; TRUSTS



GED.

**EFFORTS** to sell unit trusts in the 1990s will have to focus on marketing rather than investment performance, according to a report published by Mr Richard Ford and Mr Nigel Linacre of Charles Barker Advertising.

As they see it, consumers know very little about the way the stock market works. "Claimed financial sophistication will always be higher than the reality," they say. "There is plenty of evidence that . . . (consumers) invest emotionally, that is on the basis of seeing other people getting rich, not rationally."

They add that very few unit-linked endowment policy-holders even realize they are investing on the stock market and could be hurt by a market crash towards the time of maturity of their policies.

This was reinforced by the annual report of the Insurance Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, this week which revealed that some unit-linked investors had received compensation.

The investors had not understood, because of the enthusiasm of the salesman, that the value of their investment could fall.

From various market researchers, Mr Ford and Mr Linacre gleaned the impression that consumers tend to pigeonhole banks as providing

current accounts, while building societies are seen as suitable for savings and mortgages.

Both are believed to lack the skills to provide good investment products.

Insurance companies, which have been at the forefront of recent unit trust expansion "have historically been able to exploit the lack of knowledge and sophistication among consumers by selling them products which perform rather poorly," says the report.

It cites "the Royal Event, promoted quite shamelessly by Royal Insurance as a sort of privatization" immediately before the 1987 crash as perhaps the best example of the insurance companies' use of market power.

But the big change came in 1988, when Marks and Spencer used its strong brand image and large customer base on a unit trust launch which pulled in £56 million - a record for that year.

"Where was the added

value in Marks and Spencer's unit trust?" asked Mr Ford.

"not at the investment management end, or those investment managers would have got the sales for themselves. Their ads were not spectacular, they were workman-like. The leverage they had came through the Marks name."

Now the Halifax Building Society is poised to use a similar strategy, in association with Standard Life, said Mr Ford. "The Halifax name

gives them a leg-up on the opposition, as well as their outlets and big consumer database."

He forecast that the society would have a sitting target in customers approaching it for high interest accounts who could be easily diverted into unit trusts.

Companies without established names and efficient distribution networks risk being sidelined, according to the report.

"All the cards are in the hands of people with their own distribution networks - to me that is a scandal," he said, mentioning the ability of salesmen exclusively linked to one insurance company to conceal their commissions, while independents must disclose theirs.

"You would have thought that independent advice would be subsidized but it is the other way round."

Dismissing the insurance company-funded Campaign for Independent Financial Advice as a "no-no", Mr Ford said that Britain had no tradition of paying for financial advice. "The very notion would offend people."

Barbara Ellis

## Fidelity puts its trust in South East Asia

By Jon Ashworth



Kevin Lee: fund manager

TWENTY years ago, it took a brave man or woman to invest in a Japanese unit trust. Today, the same might be said about a fund investing in some of the more remote regions of South East Asia. But this is exactly what Fidelity plans to do when it launches its first new equity trust for two years next month.

The Fidelity ASEAN unit trust, which takes its name from the Association of South East Asian Nations, goes on offer on May 12. It will ignore "Tiger" economies like Taiwan and Korea in favour of remoter neighbours like Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The more familiar territories of Thailand and Singapore round off the group. Brunei is the only ASEAN country not included because

it does not have a stock market.

Why investors should put their money into a region better known for pirates and attempted coups is a question which needs to be asked.

Local stock markets are notoriously illiquid, making it hard to buy stock and even harder to sell it when the going gets tough.

Many shares are out of bounds to foreigners, and heavy swings are the order of the day in Manila and Kuala Lumpur.

But flip the coin, and the case to invest in the region becomes a strong one.

Mr Kevin Lee, who will be managing the ASEAN trust from Hong Kong, said labour costs were up to 25 times lower than in Japan, making it attractive for foreigners to set up plants locally. Government

is only suitable for long-term investors, but I do believe that the ASEAN region will have one of the fastest rates of economic growth in the 1990s."

In 1970, Save & Prosper followed a similar path by launching the first Japanese unit trust.

Despite a rocky ride over the next 20 years, an investment of £1,000 in the Japan Growth Fund would have grown to £22,774.

Huge swings in the value of Japanese shares are not new. In one five-year period, the fund showed a return of only 9.6 per cent.

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More objectively, you might conclude that the banks didn't really want anyone to change to these new interest-bearing current accounts and made the whole thing so confusing that their customers would rather keep their money in ordinary bank accounts.

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According to NOP's Financial Research Survey, a staggering 81% of the banks' customers still have old-fashioned bank accounts.

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If you're confused about which of these 'new-style' bank accounts pays interest, see if you can fathom out their attitude to charges.

Despite their much-trumpeted innovation, most of the banks' new interest-bearing accounts have charges which are the same or even higher than their 'old-style' accounts.

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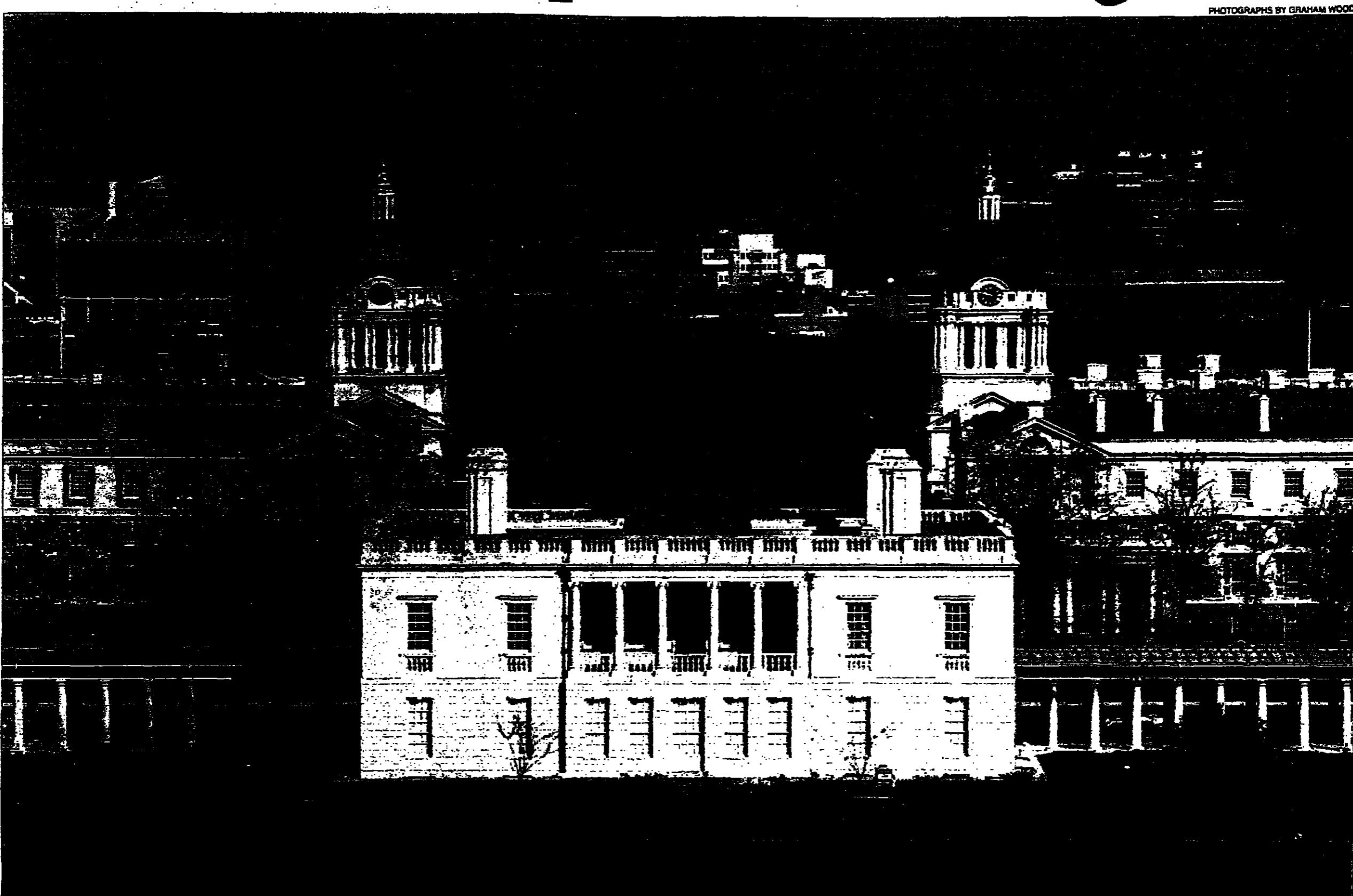
## REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY APRIL 28 1990

## A view of Reproduction England

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRAHAM WOOD



As Canary Wharf rises in Dockland, the Stuart splendour of The Queen's House owes just as much to technology of the 20th century, Nigel Andrew, reveals



Dedication: the design team works on the Queen's bed chamber

There is a curious mixture of excitement, expectation and misgiving attached to the reopening next week of the Queen's House, Greenwich. Will the six years of work behind closed doors produce an unrivalled glimpse of Restoration England, as those responsible claim – or rather an unmissable glimpse of Reproduction England? When the Queen performs the unveiling ceremony there are those who say that she will see the early masterpiece of Inigo Jones turned into a Stuart Disneyland. Even the chief restorer accepts that this £5 million project is like no other attempted before in Britain.

Everything about this building, now part of the National Maritime Museum, has always been extraordinary and unprecedented. When it was built in the 1630s it was a work of quite shocking originality, owing nothing to the English tradition and everything to Italy. Now it has been given a restoration which is equally out of the ordinary and, in its scale and its methods, without precedent. This radical approach has been possible partly because so little is known about the Queen's House. It is a uniquely enigmatic building.

John Harris, who organized last year's memorable Inigo Jones exhibition at the Royal Academy, fears the worst. "It is Disneyland," he says. "I am terribly against what they have been doing. It is simply not based on documentary evidence." But Mr Harris has not been shown the work, and nobody can be certain what the final effect will be. I have inspected the building in some detail, but without everything in its place and all the finishing touches applied, it was not easy to visualize what will greet the first visitors after the reopening.

As Mr Harris sees it, the remarkable lack of information about why the house was built, how and if it was lived in, and how it was furnished, add up to an argument for extreme caution in any restoration project. "It is a matter of attitude," he says. "You need a certain humility when you

are dealing with a building about which so little is known." It is not humility, but rather an infectious enthusiasm that is the prevailing mood among those involved in the restoration.

They have thrown themselves into the work with gusto and imagination, determined to prove that a Stuart palace can be convincingly created in the late 20th century. A unique combination of traditional craft skills and the highest of high technology has been employed throughout. Virtually everything that meets the eye

– fittings and fabrics, more than 100 items of furniture, even some fireplaces and ceilings – will be new, and unashamedly so. The designs are authentically of the period being recreated – the 1660s – but there will be none of that patina of age we expect of an historic house. Instead there will be the shock of the new.

More than £300,000 has been spent on reproducing Charles II furniture, using pieces from Knole in Kent and from Ham House in Surrey as models. "Repro" is the word the critics reach for here, but

it must be acknowledged that there was little choice: there is simply not enough good-quality 17th-century furniture in existence to fill another grand historic house. The gorgeous fabrics have been specially woven, at costs of up to £100 a metre, by the historic textile specialists, Humphries, of Essex. Alan Stimpson, head of the restoration work party, says: "Everything will be as fresh and bright as the day it was made. And it will be of exactly the same quality. We haven't taken any short cuts."

Walls have been newly marbled, grained and painted to colour schemes approved by English Heritage's expert, Ian Bristow. The famous and beautiful (and yet again unprecedented) Tulip Staircase has had its balustrade repainted in its original small blue. Throughout the house colours are equally strong, rich and unfaded, astonishing the eye, and every surface glows and glitters in the candlelight.

Candlelight? Well, not exactly. One of the most revolutionary features of this restoration is the use of fibre-optic technology to recreate the subtle, warm, flickering light of candles. The replica fittings – sconces, chandeliers, girandoles – are all wired to a fibre-optic circuit which can take light anywhere in the building. There are even tiny "spots" in the ceiling mountings of the chandeliers to give an effect of reflected candlelight. This technology has not been used before on anything of this scale to solve the problem of how to light a pre-electric house convincingly when candles are clearly out of the question.

A n equally revolutionary use of the latest technology has enabled the Queen's House to regain one of its great treasures – the painted panels by Gentileschi, which were removed from the ceilings of the Great Hall by the imperious Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough in the early 18th century. The originals remain at Marlborough House, but the Queen's House now has perfect copies, created by a computerized laser-scanning system, Scanachrome, which encodes the image and reconstructs it on to textured plastic "canvas". This looks much better than it sounds. Thanks to Scanachrome, we even have the missing bits which the Duchess cut away to fit into her Marlborough House ceilings.

These glowing paintings will be among the first things visitors see as they enter directly into the Great Hall, armed with the latest in audio guides, the "audio wand". This device automatically advances the commentary as you pass from one room to the next; you do not have to pace your tour to the speed of the voice-over.

Mr Stimpson says: "We are

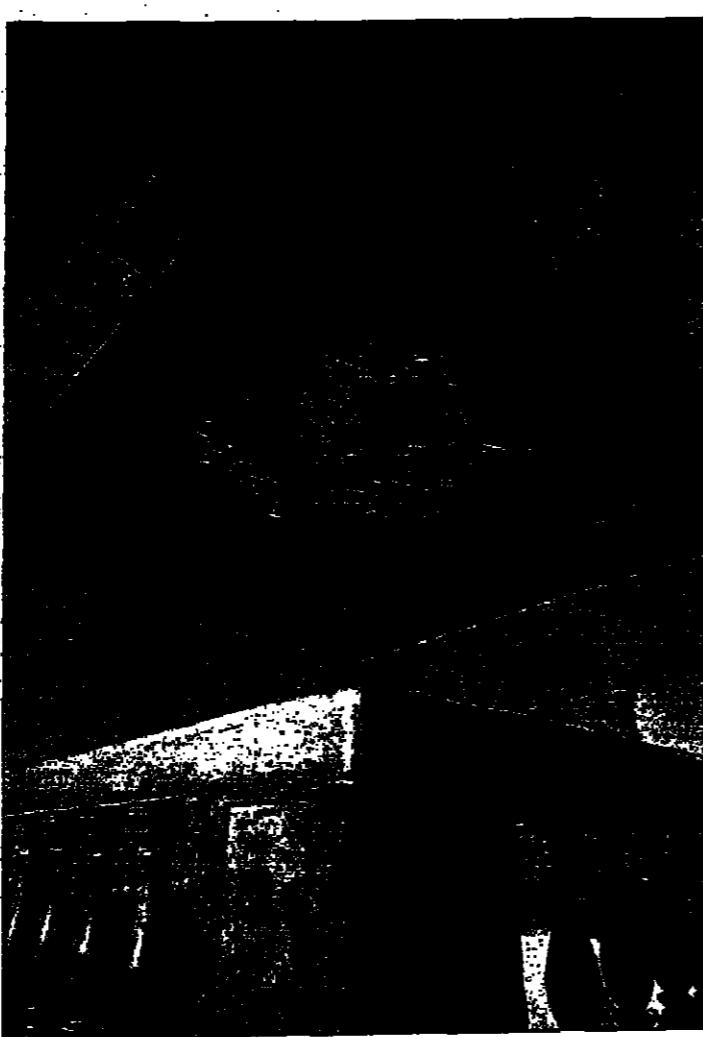
displaying the Queen's House as a Stuart palace rather than a suite of museum rooms." At which point Mr Harris and others would jump in to point out that this never was a Stuart palace. There is no hard evidence that it was ever intended as a royal residence, and much to suggest that it was not. The original plan of the building, as designed for Anne of Denmark, James I's queen, was H-shaped, with two ranges linked by a bridge room – over the main London to Dover road. Was this any way to plan a palace? Mr Harris thinks it

far more likely that the Queen's House was intended as a reception point for visiting VIPs arriving by river, a bit of pure, non-utilitarian swank.

However, a Stuart palace it is to be. The interior has been recreated as if Queen Henrietta Maria, Charles I's queen and Charles II's mother, had just moved into the house after the Restoration – which it seems she probably did, if only for a few months. The restored building divides naturally into a "Queen's side" and a "King's side", and there is a deli-

berately heightened contrast between the two sequences of rooms. The Queen's are fully furnished, aglow with silver and purple damask hangings, the walls lined with grand paintings and fresh flowers in the fireplaces. Henrietta Maria is evidently in residence. The King, however, is not "his" rooms are in a state of only partial readiness, as if a visit is expected but not imminent. There is a surprising amount of rush matting on the floors – an historically authentic, if unluxurious, touch.

Continued overleaf



Treasure regained: a laser recreation of a Gentileschi painting



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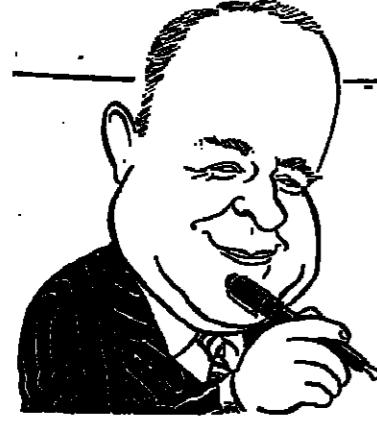
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## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



# A regal King for one night

**A**ll human life is here this week. I have been happy. I have been sad. I have cheated. I have taken confession. I have given advice. I have been delighted. I have been disappointed.

Let's get the disappointment over. This week the musical *King* finally limped to its ritual standing ovation at the Piccadilly Theatre. A couple of years ago, in a one-night charity performance, another *King*, by Martin Smith, tore the roof off the Prince Edward. How come the Good King is banished and the Bad King reigns?

Because the composer of the Bad King, Richard Blackford, got to Queen Coretta first, in 1983. When Smith appeared she confused the two projects and gave him the go-ahead as well. Later she withdrew it when she realized her mistake and he had invested a lot of money in a recording.

I wish she could see his inspirational work rather than Lonnie Elder III's muddled, random, earth-bound plotting. I wish she could see Obba Babatunde as King instead of Simon Estes, the opera singer. Mr Estes is a large, stiff, single-breasted suit with a large stiff, single-hued voice. Mr Babatunde was all passion, intellect and conviction.

Mr Estes, or so a member of the cast tells me, is a metalman man. On his favourite gold piece is the inscription "Try God". On the other side someone should engrave "Try Acting".

Mr Estes was the victim of a cruel first-night trick: someone forged Buckingham Palace writing paper and a letter from a lady-in-waiting wishing him well and acknowledging his greatness on the Queen's behalf. You would think the envoi "... Her Majesty is a great fan of the King and has all his records, including three versions of 'Blue Suede Shoes'", might have deterred him from reading it to the cast.

Still, it wasn't as cruel a trick as denying us Mr Babatunde, Bruce Hubbard, Willard White, Gregg Baker or anyone who could bring vitality, depth and acting to the role. I wish Mrs King could see Leilani Jones as herself. Cynthia Haymon's performance, so powerful in *Porgy*, evaporates with the spoken word. I would encourage Mrs King to listen to my friend Alistair Beaton's neat lyrics, when available; especially his showstopper, "They're After Your Vote"; and there is more compensation for her in the performances of Clarke Peters, Ray Shell and Shezwae Powell.

The nadir of this love-your-fellow-man-exercise was reached early on in production when one

star clapped eyes on a fine musician, a rehearsal pianist, and said in shock: "But he's not black!" Wisely, he left.

"We shall overcome" has dwindled into "We shall underwhelm".

LET US move on to being happy and cheating. Happy is having lunch at Famiglia with three of the most attractive women I know, Julie Ege, who starred in movies in the Sixties, came to London with her 11-year-old daughter, Ella, to visit Ella's sister Joanna, who is 18. Joanna aims to be a model or an actress. Julie now lives an hour outside Oslo and loyal, albeit maturing, fans will want to know that she is combining nursing with reading for a history degree.

My cheating took place at the television studios at Wembley. I'm not going to tell you who won when we recorded *Style Trial*, the BBC's much-reviled new game show, where Jan Ravens and Arthur Smith were my rivals. The programme does not come to a screen near you for a few weeks. Suffice to say that I have devised a way of beating Janet Street-Porter's system and feel like the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo. My reward was the ultimate in kitsch, a Kingsonic Quartz Clock set in a case with red roses and gilt cherubs.

It was at Wembley that I heard the saddest remark of the week from a young writer who said, swelling with pride: "I look after the warm-up man." Can anyone beat that for bottom-rung-of-the-ladder pathos?

IF YOU are planning a weekend in Budapest, you should check the restaurants with the Kings Singers before you set out. They happened upon one behind the Opera. An unimposing entrance gave on to an Aladdin's cave of chandeliers and crystal plate. It is called the Baroque. The bill for four totalled only £30. They had a choice of Mete Gele ("trembling jellied meat"), Misced Poulet Salade, Ice-cooled Spawa, Cow meat suddenly Roasted with Salsa, Lifer of Gose in Aristocratic style, and Vegetarian Eatables to the liking of the Hermit. That was for starters.

"Our chief dishes" included *Jointe* (pork) rosted in one block with Villein's Lumpings, That Caboche with Mete for the Capuchin Munuc, Knokel of Pigge for the Toto of Kongberg and Eatable Grudinovich in Salsa with Ginger. Occasionally we reach recognizable landmarks — The Favourite Pilau of Stroganoff, Tournedos according to the taste of Rossini and Disc of Markis Chateaubriand with a Heap of Vegetables.

On Tuesday I enjoyed announcing my colleague Jonathan Meades as Glenfiddich Restaurant Writer of the Year. Jonathan should lie to Hungary and tell us what is going on at the Villa Esperanto.

THAT Sandy Wilson review number ("The Nightwatchman") has started a few hairs. Bernard Levin reprimands me for omitting Beachcomber's conclusive couplet, "Hush! Hush! Nobody cares: Christopher Robin has fallen downstairs". Mr Brennan of Wexford thinks it should be "Tush! Tush!" They must fight it out when Bernard is next in Wexford for the opera.

Robert Bishop (briefly back from America) played in *Slings and Arrows* with Hermione Gingold and assisted her cabaret début at the Café de Paris. She performed her

first number at the top of those twin stairways. She surveyed the audience and sang, "If I were very clever I would stay up here forever but... hush, hush, whisper who dares/Old Mother Gingold is coming downstairs". The ovation then sustained her careful descent to Mr Bishop, who removed her furs. He was also Jason to her Medea in a number called "Sit Down a Minute, Medea". Gingold wailed a good deal off-stage in the manner of Dame Judith Anderson and entered to fling herself at a tall pillar declaiming: "This is my personal column."

"WHY no news from Deal lately?" a stranger inquired on Waterloo Station. It is a sad story. My man is on strike against British Telecom and refuses to use his telephone. After making a lengthy birthday call on Good Friday morning, he discovered to his wrath that BT had cancelled the cheap rate concession on bank holidays (with the exception of Christmas, Boxing and New Year's days). Since when?

"Since last December, actually," said a spokesman.

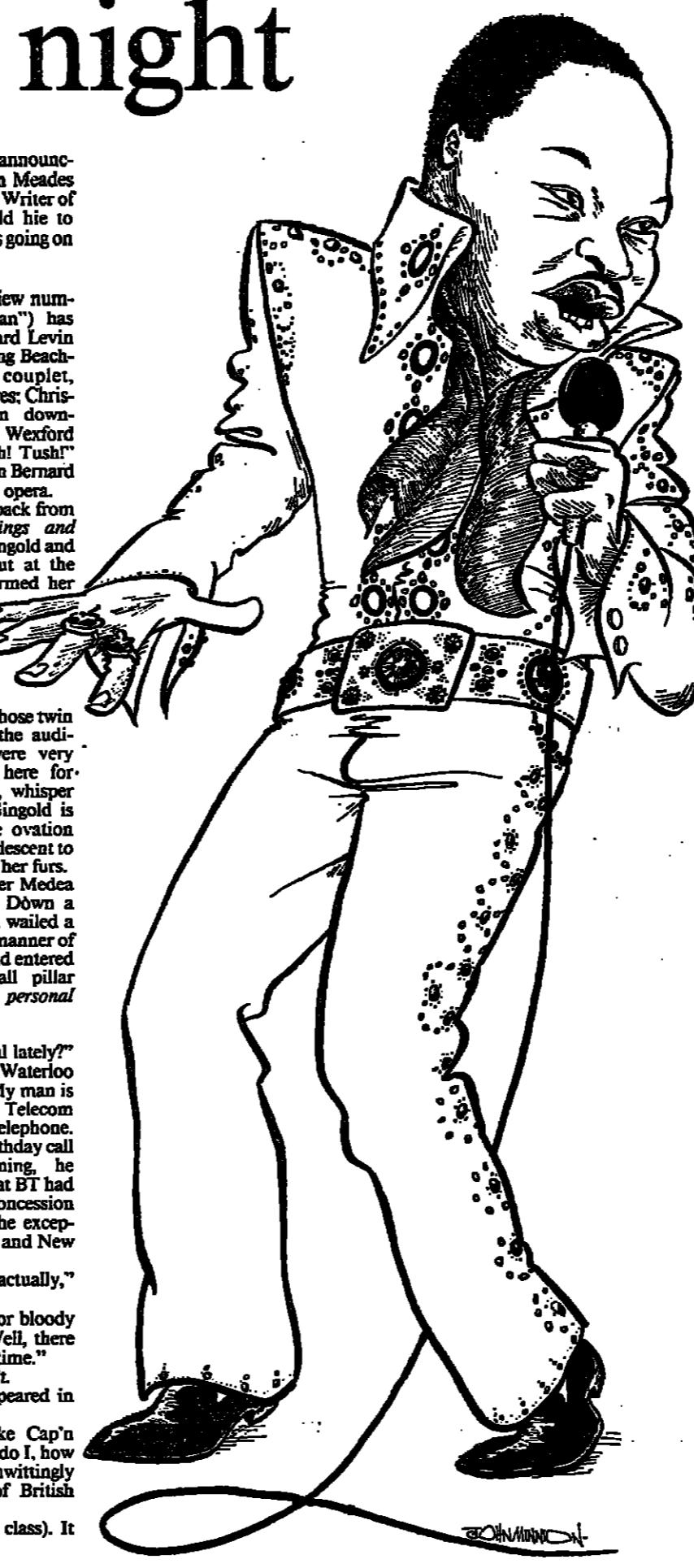
And how would the poor bloody subscriber know that? "Well, there was a press release at the time."

Not in Deal there wasn't.

"A small paragraph appeared in the *Daily Mirror*."

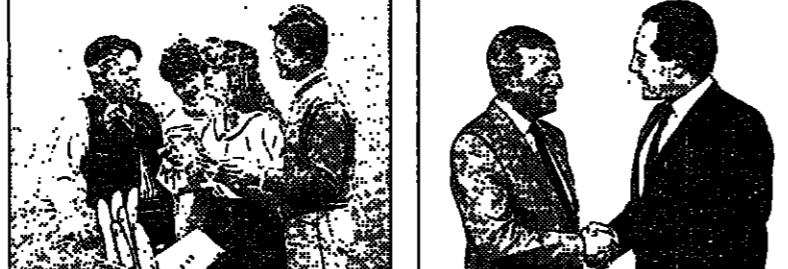
My man does not take Cap'n Bob's rag. He wonders, as do I, how many of us have added unwittingly to the gigantic profits of British Telecom.

Now he's writing (first class). It does take longer.



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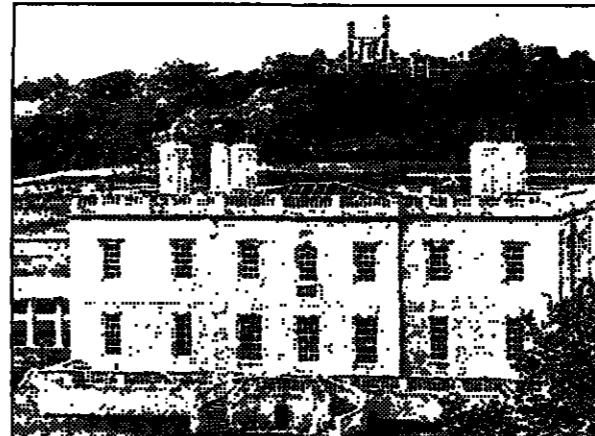
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House of delights: a fitting setting for the works of art

Continued from previous page  
These royal apartments account for the first floor. The ground floor will be more similar to a straightforward picture gallery — more similar, indeed, to the National Maritime Museum. Here some of the museum's great collection of Dutch marine paintings will be hung in fitting splendour. One of the principal aims of the restoration has been to show off the museum's works of art — some 5,000 oil paintings — in more congenial surroundings.

The whole of the Queen's House will be open, which it was not before. This is partly because of market-research findings which indicate that visitors to historic houses resent being excluded from so many rooms; and partly because it makes for smoother circulation and a more logical sequence of interiors. Open for the first time, much of it having been dug out from under tons of rubble, is the extensive basement, vaulted in beautiful 17th-century brickwork. Here the story of the Queen's House will be told in a series of back-to-back posters and a "masque".

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As a museum and art gallery, the refurbished Queen's House will undoubtedly be a triumphal improvement on what went before. But as an historic house, what exactly is being presented to the visitor? Does this "Stuart palace" bear much resemblance to anything that existed, or to anything Inigo Jones might have envisaged? Isn't there something intrinsically disturbing about a restoration so heavily reliant on "repro" work? And why was it decided to restore the house to its supposed appearance in the 1660s, rather than some other date?

The last question is the easiest to answer, but a little architectural history is needed. The building of the Queen's House was not completed under Anne of Denmark. When she died in 1619, it had not progressed very far, and was left, thatched against the weather, until Henrietta Maria took over and finished the job in the 1630s. She filled

John Webb's remodelling and the probability of the Queen's brief occupancy would have been enough to recommend the 1660s as the best target date for the restoration.

But there is also an inventory of Henrietta Maria's dating from the right period, though not, it would seem, detailing the contents of the Queen's House itself. This was in about 1662 — and the restorers were lucky to have the luxury of choice. As

Geoffrey Parnell, another of the Working Party's experts, explains: "The 1930s restoration (by George Cheethel for the Office of Works) was very thorough. All the 18th and 19th-century accretions were stripped away, leaving something pretty sanitized. In effect, we had a bare canvas to work on."

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in English architectural history going to end up as the home of the Inigo Jones Experience?

According to Mr Parnell, the answer is no. He points out that this restoration is much less radical than it might seem. "Everything we have done is reversible." So, if future generations have different ideas about what to do with the Queen's House, they will have no difficulty undoing the work of 1933-90 and returning to the bare canvas of the Thirties.

The reopening will mark a new chapter in the history of the Queen's House, but it is not the end of the story. For one thing, there is the park landscape which the house overlooks, now part of the municipalized Greenwich Park. Little can now be made out of the grass parterre, designed by the French gardener, André le Nôtre, and the giant grass steps leading up to the Royal Observatory. And yet, as Tom Turner, a landscape architect who has made a special study of Greenwich Park, points out: "Le Nôtre's design was as important in the history of English landscape as the Queen's House was in the history of English architecture."

As it is, there are no immediate plans to do anything at all about the park. But at least the house will now be what it should always have been, one of the great sights of London. The city has need of it, being short of historic houses with convincingly furnished interiors. And the restored Queen's House will, considered as a whole, conform remarkably closely to Inigo Jones's own ideas. The outside of a house, he wrote, should be "solid, proportionable according to the rules, masculine and unaffected". When it comes to the interior, however, there is always scope for "licentious imaginacy".

If this new Stuart palace has a certain "licentious imaginacy" about it, Inigo Jones is unlikely to be turning in his grave. And, as a lover of technical innovation, he would surely wish that he had had the chance to play with fibre-optic candlelight and laser-scanned ceiling panels.

## SHERIDAN MORLEY

### If I were...

If I were the Opposition spokesman on the arts, I would first of all stop worrying about the potential invasion of my territory by Glenda Jackson in her new role as the Jane Fonda of south Hampshire. But I would start worrying about how to win a 1991 election with a radical new arts manifesto for the decade ahead.

Instead of the proposed additional tape levy for cultural purposes, we clearly need free videos for all. These should consist not, as per the last election, of Neil and Glenys on a hilltop looking like something out of the third tour of *Sound of Music*, but all the old Gracie Fields movies written by J.B. Priestley, to remind us of what socialism is really about.

Then again, we are going to have to do something radical about the £5 million deficit announced by Covent Garden: as we are unlikely to get planning permission for the Channel Tunnel to come up through the foyer, thereby enlivening the last act of Wagner's *Ring*, my first proposal would be for a permanent revival of *My Fair Lady*, with tasteful working models of Julie Andrews and Audrey Hepburn.

Then again, the present arts administration has been



... Mark Fisher

shamefully slow in realizing the full potential of poll tax rioting: shards of glass from broken windows in St Martin's Lane should have been stamped "a souvenir of London's cultural heritage" and sold to all non-resident theatre-goers, along with baseball caps bearing the legend: "I fought to get a ticket".

The idea of the levy has only just begun to be properly exploited. Rather than simply sticking the odd quid on a video to finance another five-hour Channel 4 epic on the problems of one-parent Welsh hill farmers, I would be inclined to add, for instance, a surcharge of £15 on to all blank C90 cassettes. The money would then go towards total destruction of the Barbican, the South Bank Arts Centre and Terminal 4 at Heathrow, and the building in their place of several socialist fan palaces where, in front of an invited, if small, audience, Glenda and Glenys would be able to read from the collected works of Willy Russell.

Then again, the full potential of Roy Hattersley as a force for culture has yet to be realized on stage. I envisage all-day recitals at which Roy will perform his celebrated impressions of George Robey, before reading selections from the *Melvyn Bragg Guide to Lakeland Tea Parlours*.

We have also to tackle such important issues as the Arts Council, which it should soon be possible to relocate in northern Romania, while it is our intention to nominate a number of Playwright Presidents, each to hold office for a maximum of six weeks unless of course they get a hit, in which case it will be possible to extend their season indefinitely — except in the case of Ray Cooney.

During the great Labour administrations of the early Sixties we managed to create and fund such London landmarks as the National Theatre and the Hayward Gallery, and it will equally be our great honour to preside over

## A CHILDHOOD: EVELYN GLENNIE

'I tell the quality of a note by what I feel. I sense musical sound through my feet and lower body, and also through my hands'

by Ray Connolly

**W**hen percussionist Evelyn Glennie was eight, she was invited to give a short piano performance at Aberdeen's Cowdray Hall. This was her first public performance in a large hall and she was no doubt awed by the occasion. All the same, she was surprised when the man behind her tapped her on the shoulder and indicated that it was her turn to go on stage. She simply had not heard her name being called.

This was one of the early signs of a deafness which, over the next few years, was to become almost total. Today she lives in contented silence, musically remote in her own mind. Her work as a dazzling percussionist of growing reputation is as individual as her perception.

She was born in 1965 and brought up in some isolation on her parents' farm 23 miles from Aberdeen, where a local dialect was spoken and the winters were often snowbound. There was no particular interest in music in the family, other than for traditional Scottish folk music, and her first visit to a concert was at 15.

She did not, she thinks, ask for much: a guitar was the only toy she ever remembers asking for and, she had to beg continually before her parents agreed to piano lessons. Hers was, she stresses, a totally normal childhood.

Loss of hearing came to her, as it must to most people, with stealth, bringing confusion and frustration. Earache followed, bicycle rides home from school, she could no longer catch everything her two brothers were saying and at school she needed to have words repeated. Her work suffered and she began to fall behind the other children.

At 11 she was sent to a specialist in Aberdeen who advised that she should have hearing aids fitted immediately and he sent to a school for the deaf. "I was sent out of the room while he told my mother. So it was all right for me but she was terribly upset. It was like a slap in the face. Everything must have suddenly looked so black. It's terribly hurtful to see one of your parents so distraught."

Despite all the tests, no one knew exactly why she had gone deaf. One theory was that she had recently begun to play the clarinet and was keen to try all the high notes without having the skill to

play them properly. Her mother stopped any further lessons.

Evelyn never agreed with this. "We were just looking around to try to find something which would explain it," she says now. All anyone really knew was that her profound deafness was the result of some gradual damage to the nerves in the ears.

She would not countenance the thought of going to a school for the deaf, or as being considered handicapped. Even at 11 she was determined that she would find a way of coping. Deafness has never been an excuse.

Moving from the local village school at Cairnmore to Elton Academy, about nine miles away, she decided that as her hearing aids were covered by her hair she would not tell any teachers that she was deaf. All went well until



Evelyn Glennie, aged three

in a test to find who was musical, she couldn't hear the tape. She had already passed grade six at the piano but now found that all she could hear was a terrible cacophony of scratches and buzzes from a very old tape recorder.

Having put aside her clarinet, she had decided she wanted to play percussion, and had some job explaining to sceptical teachers that she was indeed musical, despite her dismal result in the aural test.

She was at a good school but into her life came a remarkable man, Ron Forbes, a percussion teacher who became one of the major building blocks of her life. "Without him I don't really think I'd be where I am today," she says.

Instead of giving up when he realized her special problems, Mr Forbes, a former Coldstream Guardsman who worked with percussion groups in schools and

music centres in the Grampian region, taught her how to compensate for a loss of hearing, to develop her sensory awareness.

"I can tell the quality of a note by what I feel. I can sense musical sound through my feet and lower body, and also through my hands," she writes in her autobiography (*Good Vibrations*, Hutchinson, £12.95). Mr Forbes' great gift to her was in opening her mind and body, if not her ears, to all the various additional ways we "hear" sounds and experience vibrations.

"At about 13 or 14 I so wanted to hear music that I was always turning up the volume on my hearing aids. The result was a terrible distortion. I would get very depressed and think I could never cope, but my percussion teacher, unperturbed by anything, said 'let's try it another way', and I began putting my hands against the wall to feel the vibrations."

As her involvement increased, so did her deafness. She could see an audience's delight in her playing, but could never hear them.

By her early teens she had had a taste of the professional musician's life of travelling in yearly trips to the Royal Albert Hall to take part in the Schools Prom with the group that eventually became known as the Grampian Schools Percussion Ensemble, and a tour with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

Although she loved percussion, she was aware enough of the problems facing her not to set her heart too firmly on it as a career. In her later years at school she toyed with the notion of being either an artist or having something to do with languages. For the experience, however, she applied to both the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music in London.

She didn't mention her deafness to the Royal College, but there was a question about her health on the Royal Academy's application form which forced her to confess her problem. Unknown to her, this immediately sparked a major disagreement within the academy over whether it was irresponsible to encourage someone who was deaf and unlikely ever to earn a living as a professional musician.

On this occasion the cold-eyed results lost and at 16 she entered the Royal Academy.

By now she had had a further specialist's report stating quite clearly that she was suffering from

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Moving from the local village school at Cairnmore to Elton Academy, about nine miles away, she decided that as her hearing aids were covered by her hair she would not tell any teachers that she was deaf. All went well until

play them properly. Her mother stopped any further lessons.

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## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Ten years after independence, many of Zimbabwe's whites believe they never had it so good. Stephen Taylor reports on their new optimism

**HARARE**  
28 APR  
1990  
**ZIMBABWE**

A white Zimbabwean and his wife recently flew from Harare to South Africa on holiday. The journey, to what is still regarded by President Mugabe's government as an enemy state, remains an area of sensitivity between blacks and whites, and the couple were pleased when they had negotiated the exit formalities. As they turned away from the customs desk, however, an official called sharply, "Don't forget, now," and they stiffened. "Don't forget what?" the man asked. The official smiled broadly. "Don't forget to come back."

Ten years after they surrendered to a combination of international sanctions and black nationalist guerrillas, the white population of what was Britain's last African colony has shrunk from 250,000 to around 90,000. But that tiny minority — less than 1 per cent of the population — is enjoying what many say is a more stable and cordial relationship with the 9.2 million blacks than at any time since independence.

Whites compare themselves jokingly with the continent's diminishing elephant herds. "Sometimes we feel a bit like a CITES Appendix One endangered species," says Dave Wood, a Harare businessman. "But those who have stayed this long believe there will always be a life for us in Africa."

When whites settled this country under the flag of Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company almost exactly 100 years ago, they spread out from Fort Salisbury, as the capital was then known, staking out land claims with scant regard for valid titles. One of the areas they settled was about 20 miles to the northwest, a valley of strikingly beautiful countryside, rolling hills and dark, fertile soil, which they called Enterprise.

Homesteads were built, blossoming trees such as jacarandas planted, and the area flourished. Even in the dark days of 1979, when a number of local farmers joined the rising toll of the Rhodesian war the whites used to gather at the Enterprise Country Club at weekends to let off steam and to play golf, tennis and bowls.

Last Saturday, the main focus of interest in the club house was the visit of a black Rugby side. Sadly, this event was denied the spectators as the black team's bus had broken down, and the Enterprise team had to make do with a game of touch Rugby before adjourning to the club house.

## COLLECTING

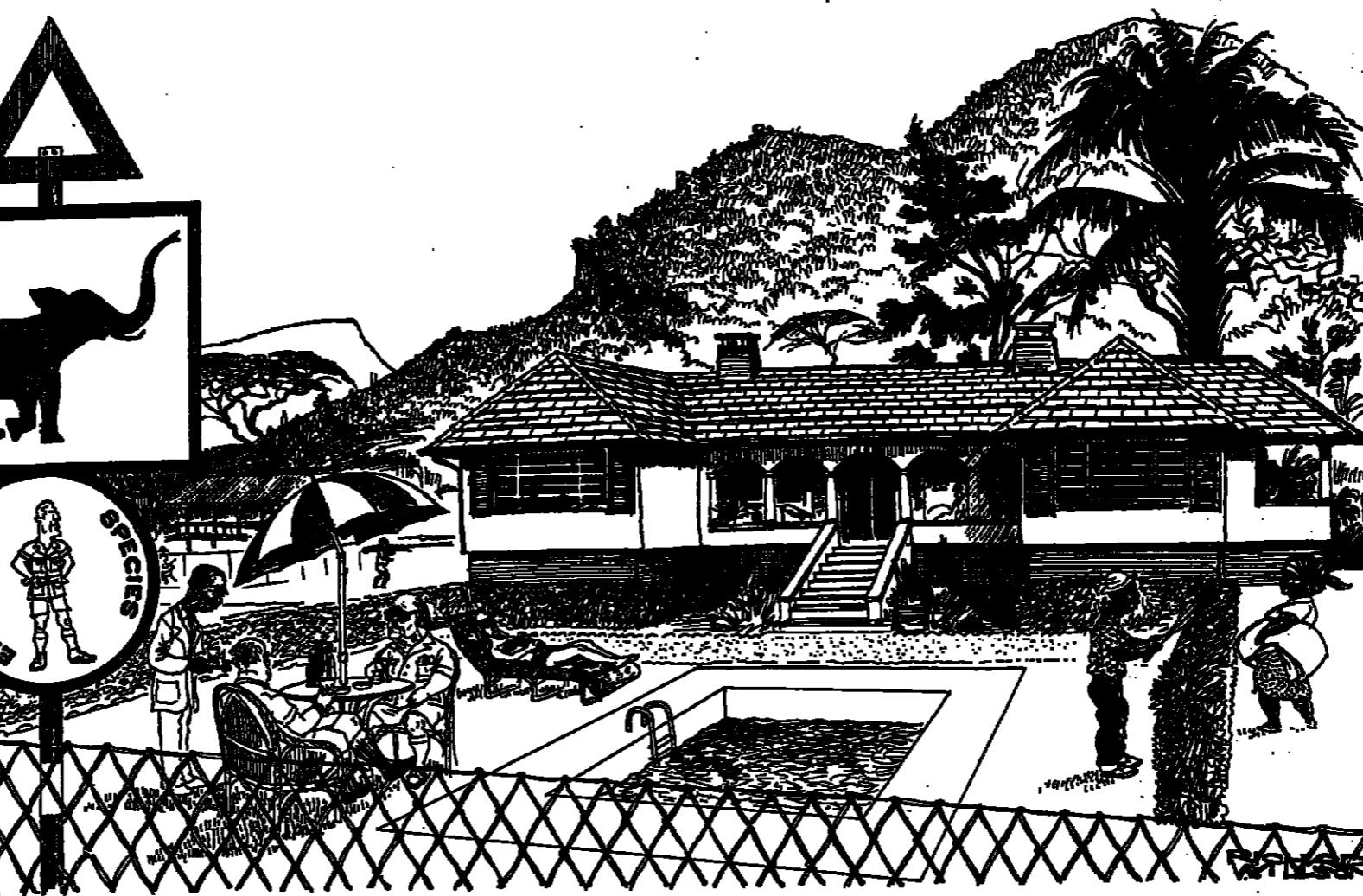
## Playing at Boulle

The name of André Charles Boulle is usually associated with lavishly decorated cabinets and tables, jewel-boxes and inkstands, the exposed wood-work ebonyed and mounted in gilt metal, the rest veneered in red-coloured tortoiseshell (not tortoise-shell) and inlaid with delicate scrolls and minute figures in brass. Yet, of the thousands of pieces in existence, only a few can be firmly attributed to his own workshops, and most were made long after his death in 1732, at the age of 90.

Considering the amount of work that went into their making, the later versions are not outrageously expensive. Saleroom prices for Victorian examples in the past year have included a jewel-box, £200; a cabriole-legged card table, £800; a small side-cabinet with glazed door, £500; a larger one suitable for displaying porcelain, £1,800; and an exceptionally fine specimen with the double doors covered in boulle-work, £4,000. Earlier pieces command higher prices — more than £7,000 was paid last year for a Louis XV bookcase.

Boulle's true contribution was to perfect a method known in Italy in the 16th century using a veneer of tortoiseshell inlaid with pewter. The technique was introduced to The Netherlands and from there to France where, in 1672, when he was 30, Boulle was installed in the Galerie de Louvre as cabinet-maker to Louis XIV. In 1708-09 he made, for the King's bedroom at the Trianon, Versailles, a pair of commodes — chests of drawers following boldly curved outlines and raised on shaped supports, veneered with ebony, inlaid with bronze scrolls and mounted in ornate (tooled and gilded) bronze.

These are now among the few surviving pieces that can be proved to have come from his workshops. Others believed to be by him are at the Wallace Collection in London, the Hermitage in Leningrad and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.



## Endangered, or protected?

Smith.

As he is quick to point out, the disability is less impressive than it might seem. A former member of the Rhodesian forces, he lost his limb through an error by a fellow white trooper. "Stupid bugger blew me up with a mortar," he says.

Looking back on the war now, he says: "It's hard to believe we could have been so blind. The fact is we were all mesmerized by [Ian] Smith into thinking it had to be that way. We never considered there was an alternative."

The lesson, he believed, should be absorbed in South Africa. "You have to negotiate before there is nothing left to negotiate. If we had talked before, there would have been a lot fewer people killed, a lot less mourning."

Mr Christie-Smith knows something about South Africa. He is among the many white Zimbabweans who, apprehensive of black

rule, migrated there after independence. "We had been there on holiday, enjoyed ourselves, looked at all the goodies in the shops, and thought, OK, let's give it a try."

They lasted six months. "Nothing worked out, and we got badly ripped off once. Although we thought the people would be the same as us, they weren't. Eventually we thought, 'Well, at least we know the Shona [Zimbabwe's tribal majority]. What the hell are we doing here?' We came back, and it was the best thing we ever did."

Mr Christie-Smith manages a farm in Enterprise. One of his neighbours is one of the district's success stories, Alan Windram, who left Rhodesia in the Seventies — "I wouldn't fight for Smith" —

and returned after independence. Working in Harare, he started part-time farming with four labourers and four shovels.

By 1987, Mr Windram was making enough from growing tomatoes to risk everything by buying a farm which had been vacant since the previous owner's death in a landmine blast in the war. Last year, he says, his turnover was more than £200,000. He provides work for a labour force of 80 and is replacing their traditional mud and thatch huts with brick houses.

Mr Windram and his wife, Lesley, who fled to Rhodesia from Idi Amin's Uganda in 1972, have two children. He says he is confident enough about the future to continue expanding and, provided the family's security remains as untroubled as now, would never think of leaving.

There are, of course, plenty of

misgivings, even in what remains an Eden for the white farmers. The foreign currency allocation for Zimbabweans, £125 annually, makes travel abroad a shoestring affair and the traveller is dependent on the hospitality of friends who have gone to live in South Africa, Britain or Australia. Income tax, at 60 per cent, bites hard, especially for whites employed in the commercial and industrial sectors, where incomes are lower than in agriculture. The block on foreign currency means that migrants leave with the bare essentials and little capital with which to start a new life. As a result, many of those whites still living in Zimbabwe say they do so as economic prisoners rather than from choice.

Unlike Zimbabwe's blacks, however, there are few who cannot afford regular holidays at the Victoria Falls, Hwange Game

Reserve, Lake Kariba, which attracts game-fishermen from all over the world, or the exquisite Eastern Highlands. Another white Zimbabwean, who migrated to South Africa only to find himself impoverished and forced to return, says: "I decided it was better to live like a white man in a black man's country, than to live like a black man in a white man's country."

This raises the question of whether, in fact, the standards which apply for the well-heeled can be maintained. Whites remain susceptible to the socialist rhetoric which peppers ministerial speeches, and which still sends frissons of anxiety through the suburbs. Health and education services are regarded by whites as having declined, although they have clearly improved for blacks. The shortage of cars and spares provides more perceived evidence of government mismanagement.

**HARARE**  
28 APR  
1990  
**ZIMBABWE**

The one concern, apart from personal security, which might yet cause a final white exodus from Zimbabwe is land. Mr Mugabe's black constituency is hungry for more of it, and the 4,500 white farmers are acutely aware that the 28 per cent of the land which they hold is, by and large, the most fertile.

At the same time, while the government has tried to foster black farm production, it is the whites who earn more than 70 per cent of foreign exchange earnings and who brought the country through the critical drought years of 1984 and 1985. This was publicly acknowledged by Mr Mugabe, according to Dave Hasluck, director of the Commercial Farmers Association, who offers an African paraphrase of the you've-never-had-it-so-good variety. "Certainly in my lifetime, these past 10 years have been the best for white farmers in this country."

The buoyant mood was underlined, in the wake of last month's elections, by Mr Mugabe's appointment of three whites to his Cabinet (no more than two had held portfolios before). Moreover, two of the new ministers, Denis Norman and Dr Timothy Stamps, have been entrusted with two of the country's most pressing problems — transport and the Aids epidemic.

The appointments have reassured many of the minority. Mr Wood said: "If we, as less than 1 per cent of the population, can provide more than 10 per cent of the Cabinet, we've got to be here to stay."

## FARMYARD DIARY

## Over the moon

I MUST confess to having committed an act of gross lunacy when sowing my red clover seed. It was the result of casually scanning an aged farming textbook which stated that clover should be sown while the moon is waxing strongly. It does not explain why.

Now, I know there is a branch of agriculture that plans its sowing and reaping so it is in tune with the lunar and planetary movements, but I have not fallen under their cosmic influence. But I remember a chance remark by my old neighbour, Will. He grew onions of shameless proportions and when asked how he did it would only mutter: "There's nowt special abu' onions." But once in an unguarded moment, he let slip that he would no more dream of sowing onion seed on a waning moon than he would of putting his spade away without polishing it. I am glad to say deep in my mind until disturbed by the reference in my textbook, and the now unsettling glare of the half moon through the kitchen window.

With not a day to lose, horses were roused earlier than usual next morning, fed and collared, hopped on to our cultivator and, blearily-eyed, set to work the ploughed soil into a seedbed. Up and down the small clods then breaking them with hoes into bite-sized chunks, until our ribbed roller did the final crumble and left a seed bed as smooth and inviting as silk sheets at Claridge's.

None of this had gone unnoticed — nothing does in the country. Most spectators gawp and coo at the uncommon sight of horses at work, but the really interesting ones are those who watch and say nothing. One old boy in particular caught my eye. He bided his time and then let slip that he worked on this very farm for 30 years. This was what I had been waiting for: someone to unlock the secrets of the old farm.

Kenny remembered having seven Suffolk Punches in the stable where we now have three; he explained that a hole in the wall was for sweeping old hay out of the loft, and showed me how the yard was sure to flood in a deluge of rain. He remembered the spot where they buried the stock after an outbreak of swine fever. His old farming instincts rapidly returned, he scolded me for leaving bits of halo-string lying

about the yard. He talked about the coming of the first tractor, and how the farmer never understood it. On the first day out, he got to the hedge and shouted "whoosh!" but the old Fordson chugged on, the old farmer shouting "who-o-o-oosh!" ever louder as the ditch grew nearer.

But there was one gap in his knowledge. I wanted to know the names of our fields. Most farmers gave names to their fields, and on larger farms it remains the only reliable way of giving directions. I know fields with such romantic and enigmatic names as Weeping Hills, the Scuds, Giebel Field and Placken's Walk. But, apart from Stockyard Field, where we were standing, Kenny knew no other names. But he remembered where the hard bits of clay lay, and where the best soil was to be found. Every inch of every field had been ingrained in his mind during those 30 years, but names he could not recall, so we shall have to invent our own.

I am inclined to name one of our fields "P Field", in memory of an accident remembered by another of our aged visitors. As a boy, he was working in this particular field and his truculent horse, complete with laden cart, decided to lie down. No amount of cursing or dragging would get it to its feet. Now, there is a

guaranteed way of getting a horse on its feet, and that is to pour water in its ear. But having no ready supply, the lad was quickly witted enough to drop his trousers and perform the trick with that which the Lord had provided. The horse responded. Such ingenuity is worthy of reward, and while future historians will assume we grew peas in our P Field, we shall know different.

Before Kenny went, I invited him to return on a working day and feel the plough in his hands once again. His face lit up. "It's nice to see someone interested in our old ways..." then he interrupted himself. "Pit Field... that over there was called Pit Field."

I led him over to the clover, hoping for a passing compliment on the texture of the seedbed. I told him I'd managed to sow the red clover seed with several days to go before the moon was full. But he didn't reply — probably thought I was some kind of lunatic.

Paul Heiney

## CAMPUS



## The write approach

Nicholas Watt  
compares the UK's  
two top courses  
in journalism

The tutors used to be chief sub-editors on the *Daily Mirror* and his corrections often make you feel very small. But he brilliantly clarifies what you have written, exposing every wasted word, and points out important news angles you may have buried.

This country's two top courses are held at the University of Wales College of Cardiff and City University in London. City boasts that its course is the best, and in the prospectus proudly says it is only minutes from the seats of power. That sounds exciting, but a fresh-faced graduate is hardly going to drop in on the Foreign Secretary for a chat or attend a Parliamentary lobby briefing.

The City course is centred more around academic studies of the media than the Cardiff course, which lays greater emphasis on practical work. City has an impressive array of tutors, led by the former editor of *The Times* Business News and *The New Statesman*, Professor Hugh Stephenson.

City offers 11 specialist courses, ranging from European journalism, to industry and finance. However, some editors feel that, while City's graduates write excellent academic pieces, they lack news for hard news.

Cardiff's approach, which is specifically to train students for provincial journalism, is both a strength and a weakness. In the second term the course is based on twice-weekly production days, to produce a local evening paper, or, in the case of broadcasters, bulletins throughout the day.

I am on the newspaper course there, and have found these production days helpful. One of

premise that, as its students are graduates, they already know how to write for *The Times*, and need to be taught how to write for more down-market evening papers or radio stations.

This attitude is balanced by the lectures given by the media watcher, Geoff Mungham, who has written a book about the press coverage of the Falklands war. His lectures have ranged from the manipulation of the media by sources to the coverage of way by journalists who hunt for stories in parks.

Students on the City course are sent out on attachments during both the Christmas and Easter vacations, while the Cardiff tutors feel their students deserve one holiday and only send them out at Easter. But I worked on the *Yorkshire Post* and *The Times* at Christmas, and found the experience invaluable.

When you apply for jobs, editors will take you far more seriously if you have cuttings or tapes. But there is a difficult balance to strike when you go on an attachment. News editors are often happy to leave a trainee in a corner reading a newspaper; for many that quietly vindicates their views of student journalists.

So you have to assert yourself and ask if there is anything to do. But, if you overdo it, you might be seen as a nuisance. On one evening paper, the news editor would be so fed up with me that he sent me out on a useless exercise to compare how many non-alcoholic beers various supermarkets sold.

Every year Cardiff offers 60 places on its postgraduate diploma course in journalism studies and City offers 80 places. Both are divided into newspaper, magazine and broadcast options.

• Nicholas Watt is a postgraduate student at the Centre for Journalism Studies, University of Wales College of Cardiff.

## SALES GUIDE

MASTERPIECES: 383 drawings of male figures, cherubs and horses, mostly at prices well under £1,000. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: tomorrow, noon-4pm. Sale: Mon, 10am-5pm. Admission by catalogue £10. Sale: Wed 2pm.

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مكتبة من الأصل

## IN THE CITY

The slag heaps of Glasgow are rich with botanical rarities, Alastair Guild discovers

**D**r Jim Dickson is drawn to the wilder side of Glasgow. To some, he might cut an eccentric figure, striding up the slopes of slag heaps in his wellies or walking the grubby banks of canals. He rummages around on mounds of rubble and prowls about in Victorian cemeteries. Suspicions police once approached the figure stooped over the yellow and purple-flowered *Solanum dulcamara*. Dr Dickson duly drew a list of Latin names from his raiment pocket.

"All the best dumps are in Glasgow," he says, a judgement not necessarily of their aesthetic appeal but rather their botanical diversity. He, and a group of fellow enthusiasts, most of them from the Glasgow Natural History Society, have scoured 360sq km of the city and surroundings in the past six years, in search of wild plants.

Some of the 1,200 species found are dull and common, but many are colourful and quite unexpected and unexplained. You can find coastal plants, such as the pale yellow-flowered Isle of Man cabbage and sand sedge, in the middle of wasteground, or a fig tree sprouting from the banks of the Clyde. Dr Dickson has assembled the results in a flora of Glasgow, complete with specially commissioned water-colours and photographs.

Now a senior lecturer in Glasgow University's botany department, he began hunting for plants almost 40 years ago, as a schoolboy living in Ibrox. He remembers meeting John Lee, the author of the last flora of the area, who was then aged 88. Shipbuilding, locomotive works, coal-mining and steel works were still operating in and around the city. A badly polluted Clyde and its tributaries flowed through Glasgow. For much of the year, plants and people breathed air heavily laden with sulphur dioxide and smoke from many thousands of chimneys.

The sites where these industries once stood have been among the most fertile botanical hunting grounds. Even near the heart of the city, a cleaner, less polluted, Clyde and its tributaries now support such plants as water plantain, reed sweet-grass, broad-leaved and fennel pondweeds.

Other habitats have been lost. A long stretch of the Monkland Canal was drained in the Sixties and filled to become part of the M8 motorway. In 1955, while hunting plants along the towpath, Dr Dickson found the rare lime-loving quaking grass. "It makes you wonder what might be on

# Running wild on the bings

FRANK BRADFORD



Out of the wastelands: Dr Dickson finds some of his best flora in Glasgow's dumps

no longer to be found. The lesser skullcap, with purple flowers, was lost to Glasgow with the building of the railway last century. According to Dr Dickson, about 100 species have become extinct in the past 200 years.

Some "invading" plants have come and gone quite rapidly. A search of Hyndland railway station in the mid-Eighties came up with no less than eight varieties that are rare in the Glasgow area, and some, such as the swamp meadow-grass, rare in Britain as a whole.

By this year, seven of the eight had vanished. "It's sad to see them go, but no flood of tears is appropriate in this case," Dr Dickson says. Some of these station-dwellers went with the partial redevelopment of the site, others with the growth of council flats.

He found 14 different flowers on the flat roof of Glasgow University's physics department. They included the mouse-eared hawkweed, which normally prefers sunny banks in the countryside. "It makes you wonder what might be on

the top of other Glasgow roofs," Dr Dickson says.

But some plants seldom, if ever, found in the city in the last century, have since become prolific. One example is the rosebay willowherb. "I vividly remember John Lee telling me that in the late 19th century it was a rare mountain plant. It now grows in gardens, on roadsides, edges of woods, railway embankments, wasteground, heaps of lime and coal, and is one of the most conspicuous colonists of derelict buildings in the city centre."

**T**he poisonous hemlock, which was a weed in the gardens of Glasgow University in the mid-18th century, has started to re-colonize this part of the city centre, now wasteground. The Danish botanist Soren Odum has provided strong circumstantial evidence that hemlock seeds remain able to germinate for 150 years or more. Did the recent demolition of houses on the site bring long-dormant seeds to

life? That question intrigues Dr Dickson.

Bings provide one of the most extraordinary discoveries of the survey. Bing, taken from a Nordic word meaning heap, is most often used in Scotland to refer to spoil heaps from coal-mining. These can be very difficult habitats, varying from blocky to fine grained spoil, which is often loose and unstable. The spoil is generally both toxic and acidic. It may be dry, because of the unimpeded drainage, and extremely warm on the steep, dark-coloured slopes.

There is likely to be an acute deficiency of the crucial nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorous, and, initially, no organic matter.

Yet, in such apparently inhospitable conditions, orchids have taken root. No less than 15 of the 50 native British orchids grow or have grown in the Glasgow area. One of those growing on bings is the common broad-leaved helleborine. Another is Young's helleborine, first found in the Glasgow area in 1985, described as new to

science in 1982, and classified by Dr John Richards of Newcastle University from sites in northern England. The third is dune helleborine, which has sparse and largely coastal distribution in Britain and is a candidate for the description of rarest plant in Scotland.

"Young's helleborine may be a stabilized hybrid of very recent origin," Dr Dickson says. One theory is that the species found in England is a cross between broad-leaved helleborine and green-flowered helleborine. But there is no green-flowered helleborine in the Glasgow area or elsewhere in Scotland. The Scottish Young's helleborine is a hybrid of broad-leaved and dune helleborine. "If that speculation is correct, then it is not Young's helleborine at all, but a newly evolved species. Its vernacular name could be bing helleborine or Glasgow helleborine."

When it comes to its choice of garden, however, broad-leaved helleborine could be called a snob. It grows only in leafy gardens belonging to owner occupiers. There is not one record of it being found in the gardens of large council house developments.

The common bistort is for

Dr Dickson the most intriguing botanical puzzle of the cemeteries. It is an uncommon plant in Scotland as a whole. In the Glasgow area it is found in profusion in mid-19th-century cemeteries, but not in the yards of parish churches, nor in very small cemeteries, nor in any of the cemeteries laid out this century, except those adjacent to 19th-century graves where the plant grows.

"If common bistort is a favoured plant for mid-19th-century cemeteries, why is it absent from the very long list of herbaceous perennials given in an 1843 book on the laying out, planting and management of cemeteries? If it was planted, who did it and why remains obscure."

Though cemeteries may remain inviolate, some of Glasgow's other wild habitats now appear under threat. Bings, for example, are valuable sources of infill for derelict industrial sites, road metal, the extraction of more coal, and even brick making. "On the grounds that they are part of the industrial history of Scotland, a few should be considered monuments, if not yet very ancient. Left undisturbed over decades, by natural colonization and succession, some bings develop woodland, not just of birches and willows but other trees, such as oak and wych elm. The plants which take root may be noteworthy, for their ecology, geography or evolution."

Skinned on Hastings beach at the end of the day and look at the underside of the pier, illuminated in the setting sun; it looks like a beast escaping into the sea.

In some ways that's just what it is. And the beast is very hungry.

"All the money we make in the summer, we put into the understructure in the winter," says one of the directors, John Strive. "We could throw half a million pounds under there without blinking."

The problem is not confined to Hastings. Piers were a peculiarly English, Victorian folly, but unlike other icons of the age that have been restored and reproduced, most of the piers of the realm creak with neglect.

One hundred were built.

Fifty remain. At Worthing and Southend, the councils have stepped in with support. In Blackpool and Brighton and a few other key resorts, big leisure companies have shown that investment can pay off. But for the small operators the capital just isn't there.

At Hastings, dwindling receipts and rising repair costs mean the Pier Company cap in hand to the council, which came up with the idea of a national competition to see if anyone could design a scheme to revitalise the pier. In association with *Building Design* newspaper, the council offered £6,000 in prize money.

The response took the organisers aback: 110 designs were entered, ranging from a plan to extend the pier by half a mile to accommodate an air traffic hangar, to schemes incorporating tennis, bowling, archery and swimming pools.

The entries were judged by the architects Cedric Price and Piers Gough. The winners, announced

## ON THE SEAFRONT

PETER WEST



Beachcombing for ideas: Hastings pier needs to counteract the rising repair costs

## Pierless days ahead?

The heyday of the pier may have passed, but

Hastings hopes for a revival in the Nineties, writes Chris Cornish

skirmished on the seafront. Sharon McKay used to help her mother in the fortune-telling booth in those days. Now she runs the booth. She remembers the Sixties as the last great days of the pier: "Every Sunday there was a group playing. And the people who worked the pier all helped each other out. There were still some great old characters in those days. It was a job and a social life."

The characters, such as Dr Cullen, the drunken fortuneteller with long flowing hair, and the Great Omazi, who lay on a bed of nails or, bound and chained, flung himself from the end of the pier, have all gone now.

"Progress seems to mean one more slot machine," Ms McKay says. "But the punters don't change. The women still want to know about romance, the men pretend not to be interested and sneak along later to ask about money."

Money is, after all, the problem. Nowadays a good bank holiday would see 5,000 people pass through the Hastings turnstile, one-tenth of the number of that sunny day in 1932.

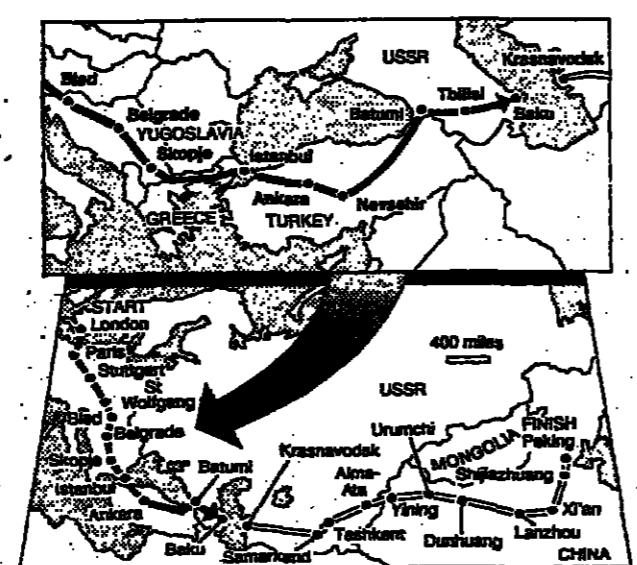
"Almost 50 per cent of the takings are in July and August alone," says John Hood, the pier manager, "and on a cold day in winter there could be no takings at all."

The real decline came in the Seventies. Municipal plans put car-parks at the wrong end of town and land-based entertainment took over from the pier. Big name rock groups turned up the decibels and needed space and fees that the pier could not hope to provide. And, of course, there was a place called Benidorm, where a holiday meant rather than a cup of tea and sheltering from the wind.

## MOTORING CHALLENGE

## Perestroika and pot-holes

We are in trouble with the KGB and Azerbaijan state security. On the journey from Tbilisi, in Georgia, to Baku, the drivers in the London to Peking convoy reaches the Soviet Union, Graham Rock reports



which is most vulnerable is the Lada Niva Coosek, driven by Chris Pringle and Rachel Hardy; spares are scarcer than Stalines, but the Lada remains intact.

Our exit from Turkey was almost without incident, and came as something of a relief. Both there and in Yugoslavia the roads were dotted with potholes, and approaching the crest of a hill sent the pulse rate soaring.

**T**he two-lane highways had a gravel path on each side, and you grew tired of reaching the top and finding three lorries abreast, one on the far gravel, one in the middle, grinding past it, and the third in your lane, overtaking the other two. Occasionally the only solution was to stamp on the brakes and look to the heavens.

Usually it is a dialogue in figures, etched with fingers in the dust on the bonnet, but sign language is helpful; my cruise control mine is particularly well received. After half a dozen encodes, I plead potential battery failure and slip away.

The vehicles are guarded at night and little has been lost, although one car in particular is at risk in the Soviet Union. The 1920 Silver Ghost? No, the one

visa forms. The road was as smooth as an eggbox. One of the best ways to tackle potholes is at speed – you sail over most of them. The rest? Well, this is a Mercedes. After a few minutes of giving the suspension as severe a trial as any on the test track, we stopped the bus and a minor disaster was averted.

The next day we had an eight-hour drive into Tbilisi, followed by a Special Georgian Wines Dinner, during which I led the field at a cracking pace. Just as my eyelids began to beg for mercy, a voice whispered in my ear that a demonstration of students was about to pull down the statue of Lenin in the main square.

Weary and wobbly, I dutifully walked the length of Rustaveli Boulevard and arrived to find Lenin's Square all but deserted, except for half a dozen buses of soldiers and the statue of the father of Socialism, defiantly upright.

Baron Guy de Wimbel, the French-based aristocrat who was forced to abandon plans to drive a London taxi to Peking and then substituted a Lamborghini Cheetah which broke down just short of Istanbul, is almost out of contention. He hired a car, but a Turkish driver rammed the side of his third vehicle.

Lamborghini pulled the Cheetah back to Italy, repaired it, and sent it to Istanbul, but a message from Samson, the Turkish Black Sea coast, suggested that the Cheetah had conked out again.

The intrepid nobleman missed what was, by common consent, the most memorable evening so far, our first in the Soviet Union, at the Intourist Hotel, Batumi. After the vodka and champagne came the dancing. A young waitress looked on with envy, and I led her to the dance floor. She raised her hands above her head and was soon lost to the music, but towards the end of the tune the tempo slowed.

Her hips swayed in the oldest rhythm of all and her eyes encountered mine. Walking seemed a long way away.

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## THE TIMES COOK

A joint of roasted meat is still hard to beat as a centrepiece for a lunch or dinner party, Frances Bissell writes

# A cut above the rest

**W**hen I was a child, Sunday lunches were synonymous with a roast, whether it was lamb, beef, pork or chicken. It's not like that in our household any more, and I suspect I am not alone in roasting less often than my parents' generation did. On the other hand, on the few occasions when I do roast meat, I wonder why I don't do it more often.

Once over the shock of how much it costs to buy a large roasting joint, and having decided that I can tame my oven into cooking at the temperature I want, the advantages of a roast are many — on the whole, it looks after itself once you have put it in the oven; delicious gravy can be made from the cooking juices; succulent leftovers are a special treat for sandwiches; well-browned bones make good stock. Timing is a fairly simple mathematical process — decide when you want to eat, take away the carving and resting time, subtract the cooking time and the 10 minutes or so it takes to heat the oven, take into account the preparation time, and that is your starting point.

A roast makes a fine centrepiece for a dinner party or a family lunch, and a cold roast is good for a buffet. On the question of size and cut, it really is a false economy to go for anything but the best possible cut you can afford. Ribs and fillet from beef, loins, legs, ribs and shoulders from the much younger and, therefore, more tender lamb, pork and veal are the cuts to choose. Only these tender cuts will respond well to the dry and relatively high heat of the roasting oven.

Lean cuts of meat will benefit from the addition of some lubrication. A fillet of beef might be larded with thin strips of pork back fat drawn through it with a larding needle. A lean bird might be larded with a sheet of thin back fat tied over the breast. Alternatively, strips of streaky bacon could be wrapped around it. A square of muslin dipped in melted butter is often used to baste a turkey breast. Prue Leith's practical version is to use a clean, scalded J-Cloth dipped in melted butter. One gadget I was given, which is useful for a large joint that needs basting, is a basting bulb, a long, thin glass tube with a rubber bulb at one end. You draw

up the cooking juices from the roasting pan and squirt them over the meat before sliding it back into the oven.

A meat thermometer is a boon for owners of temperamental ovens. Inserted into the meat, away from the bone, 51°C/125°F indicates that the meat is rare, 60°C/140°F that it is medium, and 70-75°C/160-170°F well done.

To roast a boned joint or one left on the bone is a matter of personal preference. There are those who argue that cooking it on the bone gives it more flavour. On the other hand, a boned joint can be given a moist, flavoursome stuffing that both bastes the meat from the inside and imparts extra flavour. One tip I picked up while working in professional kitchens is to have a joint, such as a saddle of lamb, boned, and then have it tied back on to the bones. That way you get the flavour from the bones and the quicker cooking time, because bones conduct heat, but carving is easy because, once cooked, you simply lift the meat off the bones.

It is worth bearing in mind that, with a whole joint of meat, the bacteria are concentrated on or near the surface and will be killed at the sort of temperatures used in roasting. However, boned and rolled or stuffed joints will have bacteria in the middle. They will only be killed when the meat is thoroughly cooked and internal temperatures reach 70°C/160°F. Consequently, a pink, tender, stuffed shoulder of lamb may still contain possibly harmful bacteria. Those who like their meat rare to medium rare will know the risks they run, but care needs to be taken if you are cooking for vulnerable guests.

Here are some of my favourite roast recipes. The loin of pork can be cut in as large or small a joint as you wish. It is, if anything, even better cold than hot.

**Roast rosette of lamb stuffed with olives and walnuts**

**Cooking time:** up to two hours, plus 15 minutes resting time

**Preparation by butcher:** have the blade and thigh bones removed from the shoulder. The leg bone should be left in for easier carving

1 shoulder of lamb, boned as above, weighing about 3½-4lb/1.6-1.8kg



**Stuffing**

4oz/110g fresh breadcrumbs  
1-2tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
10 black or green olives, stoned and chopped  
3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed  
2tbsp chopped walnuts  
1 lemon, juiced and zest grated  
1-2 pieces dried tomatoes, soaked and chopped (optional)  
1-2tsp finely chopped fresh herbs  
salt and pepper

**Pre-heat the oven to** 220°C/425°F, gas mark 7. Mix all the stuffing ingredients together, and place in the middle of the opened-out shoulder. Fold the meat over the stuffing, and tie it round three times to form a rosette shape. Put the meat on a rack in a roasting tin, and roast in the top half of the oven for 1½ hours for pink meat, or for 1½ to 2 hours for well-done. Allow it to rest in a warm place for 15 minutes before carving.

**Roast loin of pork with apricot stuffing**

**(serves 10 to 12)**

**Cooking time:** two hours plus 15 minutes resting time

**Preparation by butcher:** have the loin boned and the skin removed and scored. Take the bones and skin home with you and use them to make gravy for the roast. The skin can be cooked separately to make crackling, or it can be cut up to enrich meat stews or dishes that need a jellied stock

4½-5lb/2-2.3kg, boned loin of pork

**Stuffing**

10 dried apricots, pre-soaked and chopped  
1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped

**Cooking time:** up to two hours, plus 15 minutes resting time

**Preparation by butcher:** have the blade and thigh bones removed from the shoulder. The leg bone should be left in for easier carving

1 shoulder of lamb, boned as above, weighing about 3½-4lb/1.6-1.8kg

**3oz/85g soft brown breadcrumbs  
2oz/60g pine kernels or flaked almonds  
2-3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed  
1-2tsp finely chopped sage, lemon thyme or rosemary  
salt and pepper  
2-3 sprigs of the same herbs used in the stuffing**

**Pre-heat the oven to** 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4. Remove and discard any excess fat from the meat. Finely chop any meat trimmings, and mix with the stuffing ingredients. Make a deep horizontal slit along the length of the pork loin, and open it out flat. Spoon on the stuffing, roll up the meat again, and tie it at intervals, pushing back any stuffing which escapes. In a heated, well-seasoned or non-stick frying pan, fry the pork all over until well done.

**Tuck the sprigs of herbs under the string, and arrange the meat on a rack in a roasting tin. Put in the top half of the oven, and roast for 2 hours. The roast is cooked if the juices run clear when the meat is pierced to the centre with a skewer. If the juices are pink, the meat is not yet cooked and should be returned to the oven. When cooked, remove from the oven and let the meat rest, covered, in a warm place, for 15 minutes before carving.**

**Roast chine bones and/or rib bones from prepared joint**

**1 onion, peeled**

**1 carrot, peeled**

**1 celery stalk**

**a few peppercorns**

**water**

**Have the bones chopped, if possible. Fry them with any meat trimmings in a heavy saucier until brown. Chop the vegetables roughly, and add to the pan. When they are beginning to brown, as the sugars in them caramelize, add the peppercorns, and cover bones and vegetables with water. Bring slowly to the boil, skim and then simmer for 2 to 3 hours. Strain and reduce the liquid to 4pt/140ml. This will keep in the refrigerator for several days and will enrich soups and gravies. Veal bones will produce the richest, most jellied stock.**

**Gravy**

**After you have removed the roast** from its rack from the roasting pan, gently pour away any fat. Set the tin over a low heat, and scrape up any caramelized cooking juices with a metal spoon. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons of water and a little stock if you have it. A small glass of cider or the wine you are serving with the roast would go well, but is not essential. Boil and scrape until you have a good rich mixture, and season to taste. Strain it into a jug or gravy boat that you have warmed by filling it first with boiling water. This prevents any remaining fat in the rib bones from congealing.

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**be quite easy to carve in slices across the grain of the meat, parallel to the rib bone**

**2½-3lb/1.1-1.35kg best end of veal, prepared weight**

**1pt/140ml rich veal stock (see below)**

**Crust**

**4 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed**

**2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped**

**4tbsp finely chopped parsley, with a little chervil**

**2tbsp Dijon mustard or tarragon if available**

**3tbsp soft white breadcrumbs**

**2-3tbsp extra virgin olive oil**

**juice of ½ lemon or orange**

**salt and pepper**

**IT IS impossible to write about roasts and roasting without including the classic roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. But with today's farming methods, which use intensive feeding to rear an animal to slaughter weight in a couple of years rather than the five to six years at which mature beef cattle were slaughtered 25 years ago, it is perhaps no longer quite the glory of our national table that it once was. Nevertheless, careful shopping will reveal sources of mature beef.**

**Organic beef is increasingly available for those who care about what their meat has eaten during its life. Safeways sells organic beef in a variety of cuts at 17 of its stores, and it is stocked by many independent butchers. Mr Doolin of Hampstead Butchers in north London was able to tell me which animal, a prize-winner from a particular herd, yielded the excellent organic beef I bought from him a few months ago. Other pioneers in the field, such as the Real Meat Company in Warminster, sell beef which has been reared on fully organic systems, without growth promoters and pre-emptive medication, and according to high specifications of animal welfare.**

**First prepare the crust. Mix all the ingredients, and spread the mixture all over the meat, but not on the bones. Cover closely with clingfilm or foil, and refrigerate overnight to let the meat take on the flavours of the crust. Next day, when ready to cook, remove the veal from the refrigerator, and, at the same time, pre-heat the oven to 160°C/325°F, gas mark 3.**

**Place the joint on a rack in a roasting tin, and cook in the middle of the oven for about 2 hours. Every 30 to 40 minutes, pour on a tablespoon of veal stock. When done, remove the meat from the oven, and let it rest for 15 minutes, in a warm place, before carving.**

**Brown meat stock**

**chine bones and/or rib bones from prepared joint**

**1 onion, peeled**

**1 carrot, peeled**

**1 celery stalk**

**a few peppercorns**

**water**

**It is worth paying more for this kind of meat and regarding it as a special treat and not something one would expect to eat every day. A large sirloin of beef represents such a considerable financial investment that it is unlikely to be more than an occasional meal, perhaps to be served to guests from abroad.**

**Yorkshire pudding is one of the best possible accompaniments. That such a bland mixture can be turned into something so crisp and delicious is one of the wonders of the alchemy of cooking. In Yorkshire the pudding is quite**

**thin and crisp, with high walls. This makes it a perfect vehicle for the first course, which is nothing more than a small heretical sect cooks the pudding while the beef is being eaten, and serves it as a pudding with golden syrup, jam or even condensed milk.**

**Roast sirloin of beef and Yorkshire pudding**

**(serves 6 to 8 plus leftovers)**

**Cooking time: 12 to 18 minutes per lb/455g, depending on whether preferred rare or medium, plus 10 to 15 minutes more in the oven and 15 minutes resting time. Allow 20 to 25 minutes per lb/455g, plus 20 to 25 minutes, for well done**

**Preparation by butcher: if there is clearly going to be enough**

## A rare treat



**meat for everyone on the sirloin, you could have the flank and of the joint cut off for use in a casserole. Similarly, you may wish to have the fillet removed for use in another dish**

**6-8lb/2.7-3.6kg sirloin**

**3-4tbsp flour**

**salt and pepper**

**Yorkshire pudding**

**1tbsp dripping from the roasting pan**

**1/2lb/110g flour**

**2 eggs**

**1/2pt/280ml milk**

**Pinch of salt**

**Pre-heat the oven to 220°C/425°F, gas mark 7. Trim off any excess fat, and place the sirloin, skin side up, on a rack in a roasting tin. Sprinkle half the flour and a little salt and pepper over the meat, and put in the top half of the oven once it has reached the right temperature. After 20 minutes remove the meat and dredge with the rest of the flour and a little more salt and pepper. Return the meat to the oven. After a further 10 minutes, pour 3oz/85ml boiling water into the roasting pan. This will mix with any browned flour and makes the beginning of gravy. Close the oven door, and continue cooking the beef for the required amount of time.**

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**By now the beef should have been removed from the oven and transferred to a carving dish for its 15 minutes rest in a warm place, which gives you time to make the gravy.**

F. B.

## DRINK

### Uncork with care

**P**roceed with caution is my advice to those who are keen to acquire the much-hyped 1989 claret vintage *en primeur*. Buying wine at this youthful, unproven *en primeur* stage, when the wine is still maturing in cask, is a tricky business. And wise *en primeur* purchases are doubly difficult in years, such as 1989, when the pre-vintage publicity has been loud.

There is no doubt that the hot summer of 1989 has made some good wines. The French, of course, maintain that 1989 Bordeaux is the vintage of the century. The story on this side of the Channel is somewhat different. No British merchant denies that the 1989 claret crop has produced some stunning wines, but *en primeur* claret specialists and the advance 1989 vintage reports express reservations.

Nicholas Davies of the Hungerford Wine Company, which, along with the Wine Society, must be one of the biggest traders in *en primeur* claret in this country, says in his vintage report that "careful selection is essential".

Graham Chidgey from Laytons, who has been buying *en primeur* clarets from Bordeaux for 25 years, has the most negative view of the 1989 vintage. He claims that although it is a good vintage, most Bordeaux 1988s are better. After an extensive tasting visit to Bordeaux, he wrote: "There is no possibility of the '89 vintage ever being accorded the greatness first spoken of, either during the

harvest, or during the ridiculous claims prior to Christmastime."

Nicholas Wright, from traditional claret merchants Berry, Bros & Rudd, partly shares Chidgey's opinion. He, too, feels that 1989 is not the vintage of the century and is enthusiastic about the "under-valued" '88s that have "great finesse and backbone". Sebastian Payne, wine buyer for the Wine Society and Master of Wine, also feels let down by the '89s. After a recent tasting of 900 wines in Bordeaux, he felt that "they were not as exceptional as the early '89s". Simon Loftus from Adams, who has written the most positive British merchant's vintage report so far this year, says 1989 "was a year of startling inconsistency and huge disappointments; such substantial variations that it sometimes seems as if we are dealing with three or four vintages, not one".

Bordeaux château proprietors may argue that the chief reasons for our merchants' views on 1989 Bordeaux are financial. The 14 per cent drop in value of sterling against the franc since last year's *en primeur* campaign does not help. Nor do the 20 to 30 per cent price increases from Bordeaux proprietors.

Bordeaux 1989's chief problem is concerned with the grapes' ripeness. This may

produced lower yields, and by those who have been ruthless in selecting only their finest vintages to go into their *grand vin*.

Having said all this, I shall still be buying 1989 Bordeaux *en primeur*. So far I have tasted 30 or so of the 1989 clarets and have been impressed with the best wines. Château Talbot '89 is a fine St Julien with a plummy-truffley style and spicy elegance, and '89 Château Gruaud-Larose, with its rich, cedar-spicy fruit, is another first-class St Julien. I was also impressed by Château Cantenac from the Haut-Médoc, whose cedar, sandalwood character has plenty of elegant, ripe fruit. From the right bank, try wines such as Château L'Angelus from St Emilion, which has superb cinnamon fruit. St Emilion's Château Canon La Gaffelière, with its rich, cedar, spicy fruit, is also worth buying, as is the equally delicious Pavie-Ducasse and distinguished Cap de Mourlin.

I shall be tasting more 1989 clarets soon; in the meantime, some of the best buys are at Morris & Verdin, 28 Churton Street, London SW1, which undercuts several of those listed by the Hungerford Wine Company, Unit 3, Station Yard, Hungerford, Berkshire, Adams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk; John Harvey & Sons, 31 Denmark Street, Bristol; Laytons, 20 Midland Road, London NW1; and Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1, are also offering sensibly priced 1989 *en primeur* Bordeaux wines.

# Poison in the spring of nations

Peter Ackroyd observes the resurfacing of ancient enmities in Eastern Europe

**I**t is a very complicated situation," a Bulgarian economist explained to David Selbourne, "which will be described in the future by historians, philosophers, and poets." The flamboyantly entitled *Death of the Dark Hero* attempts something in the manner of all three in this account of decay, destruction, and transition in Eastern Europe. For Heinrich Heine was right, after all — Communism was indeed the "dark hero destined for a great, if temporary, role in the modern tragedy". The significant word here is "temporary", and Selbourne travelled East to witness the death of an ideology.

He began in Prague, three years ago, with a vision of "still-life", cold, passionless, bare. But even then something else was stirring. "We are gradually realising our roots," one Czech told him, "our own history, and many of us are going back to conservative traditions."

So although, as an analyst, Selbourne sees this crisis of change almost entirely in political terms, with his belief that Marxism is an "intellectual apostasy" and "proletarianism" itself "one of the world's curses", as an observer he realises that there is also a separate struggle to be cleared — with the dissolution of the Soviet Empire, he was witnessing in Eastern Europe the re-emergence of nationalism and, with it, the faith in indigenous historical culture.

That same Czech had talked to him about the "plebeian culture" which international Communism had imposed upon his country, a sentiment which will find some resonance here among those who are disgusted by the "bureaucratized" culture that is represented by the latest soap-opera from Sydney or the latest rock programme from Paris.

And is there not a larger truth here as well? Is it possible that real culture springs from a nation and its particular history, while "plebeian culture" is an international product packaged for mass consumption by such large blocs as the Warsaw Pact or the European Community?

Selbourne understands this because he is well acquainted with the nations which he visited; one of the strengths of his book, which combines analysis with reportage, is his grasp of the history behind each country's yearning for change. For,

in a sense, that is his central theme: whole cultures had been suppressed in the name of Soviet dogmatism. Histories had been replaced by what? By a "system", by a parade of political clichés sustained by force or by the threat of force. But when that threat is removed, what then?

What Selbourne precisely describes

seeps through people's language, attitudes and behaviour. He is as keenly alert to the topographical as he is to the moral landscape, and it is as if the very stones of the old capitals of Eastern and Central Europe were reassessing

## DEATH OF THE DARK HERO

Eastern Europe 1987-1990

By David Selbourne

Cape, £13.95

ing their ancient identity.

There are occasions when he is perhaps over-anxious about his status as informed observer, and he sometimes tends to use

novelistic methods in order to wrench significance from local

detail where no real significance is to be found; the danger of course is that of portentousness, but his narrative is strong enough, his theme powerful enough, to override these difficulties.

Certain matters stand out as a result — despite the fact that many of the Eastern reformers seem to admire Mrs Thatcher (many in fact aspire to some hybrid Toryism),

Germany is quite clearly seen to be the dominant power and the centre of burgeoning European consciousness. Selbourne also discloses a distrust of Mr Gorbatchev which, despite his indispensable role in the very movement of decolonization, is everywhere apparent in the newly liberated countries.

But it is the people who stand out in this variety of reports from a series of front lines — the reformers, the new entrepreneurs, the old beleaguered leaders, the bureaucrats, the editors, all of their voices adding to that roar of disquiet or enthusiasm which has been heard all over the world. There are many people in Hungary, one inhabitant explained, who "realise that, in addition to the economic hardship, for 40 years their lives have been wasted". This is a constant refrain — and if there are times when Selbourne's interlocutors sound surprisingly alike, it is in fact because they have suffered the same historical tragedy.

And, when the end comes, in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, East Germany, and elsewhere, Selbourne infuses his prose with a heady sense of liberation and celebration — perhaps there are times when the fall of the "dark hero" seems too close to fairy-tale stereotypes of good and evil (with good triumphing in the end) but there are times in history when the truths of fairy-tale have a real significance. When the endless quest for liberation and fulfilment, amid all the obstacles of the world, does have a genuine human meaning.

And yet of course stories end, where history does not. The resurgence of nationalism in these countries is not without its darker or more statist aspects — in the anti-Semitism revived from Hungary's past, for example, or in the Romanians' dislike of their indigenous Hungarian population. Even within one more apparently "advanced" country, Yugoslavia, the Serbians and Albanians seem close to civil conflict.

Nations which once seemed so alike, so deeply dyed in the homogenous greyness of the Warsaw Pact, can now be seen for what they truly are: ancient enemies. It is as if the past, preserved in permafrost during the Cold War, had suddenly reawakened. In that sense *Death of the Dark Hero* is as much a warning as a celebration: a timely book, therefore, and a serious one.

# Small, perfectly formed

## FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

## FINDERS, LOSERS

By Jan Mark  
Orchard Books  
paperback, £4.99

**A**s an erstwhile tutor in the craft of writing, Jan Mark has here set out a brief demonstration exercise in life, jointing and chiselling. The scope of the job is fixed in the first chapter which describes a half-term Saturday as spent by Philip Halloway. He has just arrived on a visit to his father, who is temporary porter-in-residence at a new university, and he occupies himself by observing the campus goings-on, and by making desultory contact with some of the local children-in-residence. There is Mary Constantine, for instance, discovered peering at bare earth through a magnifying-glass; or Peter Selvedge who has all the characteristics of a Saddam Hussein in the making.

With Chapter Two, though, Jan Mark takes us back to the beginning of Philip's eight-and-a-half-hour day, and we see how the time passed for Hiroko Pitman, who had had a walk-on part in Chapter One round about half-past nine. Now we follow her as she gets trapped up a tree and has to devise an escape route over the cantilever roof and down through the college library — finding Mary's spectacles on the way, much to the later consternation of the Constantine family.

In each of the next four chapters the same Saturday unfolds for one or another of the children whom Philip had seen or encountered in Chapter One. Each experiences a mild adventure, which derives from or connects with some part of the adventures of the others, but they do not, cannot, find this out. The accidents and contingencies of their stories are known only to their chronicler, Jan Mark, and — as she says in a preface — to the reader.

The small findings and the small losings of the title are of no great consequence when set beside her deft portrayal of these children, and beside the reader's pleasure in discovering how incidents from one story click into place within another. Indeed, by the time the book is finished the reader may well have decided that it would be nice to hear what happened next.



Don't Blame me, by Paul Rogers, is neat narrative carpentry with Jethro the sign-painter tearing round the village to find why his ladder got knocked over. The illustrations are by Robin Bell Corfield (Bodley Head, £6.95).

PAPER

# Integrity as a man

Brian Patten is one of the better poets who sprung to fame 20-odd years ago, when there was a vogue for poets to be seen and heard reciting their works in public places. His *Grinning Jack* (Unwin, £5.99) selects the best of his work over three decades, excluding the love poems, which have already been separately collected. Patten emerges from it as a writer of finely clean, unobtrusive, and original verse, even if there are still too many pieces ("Old Crock" is a terrible example) which seem to have been designed to give his audience what most easily pleases them — rhetorical gestures, predictable jokes and caresses. At his best, though, a persuasive gentleness of expression is employed to contain some disturbingly violent messages about the nature of man: *Dreams larger than ourselves we killed, but wanting our smallness measured against them*. That, I think, is

Rob.

POEMS

ESSAYS

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By Boris

Collins/HF

local atmosphere and a good knowledge of treacherous currents keep things on course. *Beta query plus*.

• **The House of James** (Heinemann, £12.95) by Donald James starts as a superior thriller that cleverly disguises yet another saga where two branches of family have been split by war.

In this case the family is the Coburgs — half Austrian, half American, and both in the politically sensitive business of bank-note printing. James starts by playing the amnesia card, often rewarding in the short run, though hard to sustain — who is the unknown soldier who wakes up in hospital, one of the last casualties of the Second World War: GI or Nazi plant? The usual ingredients — rival brothers, cousins-in-love — are handled with a dexterity Archer J. can only dream about. It deserves success. *Alpha query minus*.

## Patrick Parrinder on a fictional topography

# Through a travel agent's nightmare

IS it time for a Jules Verne revival? In France, the 50 volumes of *Extraordinary Voyages* have inspired pyrotechnic displays of critical virtuosity by the leading figures of Parisian post-structuralism. In England, the master of Geography without Tears remains *Boy's Own Paper* material, a great inventor straitjacketed by the incompetence of his early translators.

Having had the bright idea of reprinting *The Floating Island*, Kegan Paul should have commissioned a new translation. Instead, it has reproduced the original 1896 edition, and Verne's satirical edge is blunted by Berlitz School English.

Proceeding down the California coast from San Francisco to San Diego, four French musicians are kidnapped, conveyed on board a vast floating city, and sent on an involuntary tour of the South Seas. Their sole function on board the cruise vessel is to give fortnightly chamber concerts to an audience of refined millionaires.

Despite the presence of P. T. Barnum's great-grand-nephew as master of ceremonies, there is not much to do on the Pearl of the Pacific, a sort of propeller-driven Canaries or Bimarit. The inhabitants demand a constant supply of European newspapers (some of them printed on edible pastry in chocolate ink) to keep them satiated.

Verne's travelling quartet manage to stretch their legs at Honolulu, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and other delectable spots, but these, too, are fast turning into holiday resorts and the shortage of picturesque cannibals is sorely felt.

Everywhere the tourists go the food is good, the wines are superb, and — notwithstanding the mon-

etary intrusion of a British gunboat — due deference is paid to Parisian standards. But Verne has a dramatic denouement up his sleeve, and by the end *The Floating Island* is not nearly as bland as it seems. Beginning like a dream holiday brochure, by the time the travellers reach Auckland they have been through the South Sea Bubble of a travel agent's nightmare.

It goes without saying that Verne never actually visited the Pacific, and his attempt at the age of 17 to run away to sea ended before his vessel had reached the mouth of the Loire. *The Floating Island* takes narrative hints from Dumas, Poe and Twain, and doubtless its author had read his Melville and Stevenson as well as the reports of French district officers and missionaries. The Pacific of this comparatively late novel is a tamed and overcrowded arena, lacking the creepy solitude of *The Mysterious Island* and the burgeoning marine life of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Even the sharks appear to be friendly.

A parable of spoilt millionaires at large in a world they have turned into an enormous theme park, *The Floating Island* can be read as an accurate prophecy of the modern tourist industry. But it would make uncomfortable reading on the plane to Tahiti, and it is no accident that our own century's classic story of Pacific adventure describes not an imaginary voyage in a floating pleasure palace but a real journey on a raft.

Pasternak once defined poetry as "The cracking of squeezed icicles", which is good enough, and then again as "Two nightingales singing a duet", which is even better. The matter gathered in the new paperback presentation of his work bears out these splendidly physical definitions very impressively. The book contains his *Poems 1955-59*, translated from the Russian by Michael Harari, and the prose of *An Essay in Autobiography*, translated by Manya Harari.

The essay dates from round about the same time as these late poems, and can be taken as an ideal companion to them. Both prose and verse have an admirable lucidity. Under and over everything, the picture here given is that of a complete poet, which is to say of a man constantly and seriously engaged with language in the task of clarifying himself so that he may be the better for its vessel. Pasternak sought integrity as a man, lucidity as an artist, finding simplicity at deeper and deeper levels. Those who reckon these concepts vague should read how precise they became in Pasternak's life and death.

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**Genius or ventriloquist?** **Hamid** **FAMOUS** **MIF** **By Robin** **Monteith**

Andy Warhol was a bald albino who made millions out of the collusive austerities of a troupe of exhibitionist pseudos. Or, Andy Warhol was a creative genius who revolutionized the art world by commercializing the avant-garde. Or, New York may not always get what it deserves but it invariably gets what it pays for. This personal memoir from Ultra Violet — a French *haut bourgeoisie* rebel who reinvented herself as the gaudy intimate of Salvador Dalí and Ed Ruscha and, in between, became one of Warhol's Factory Superstars — is characterized by a tone of defiant prudery. Though immersed in the greatest concentration of polymorphous perversity since imperial Rome, she neither takes drugs nor engages in public group sex. Even

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## OKS

Jonathan Meades peers into a world of poisonous portents

Carlo Ginzburg suggests that the oldest act in the intellectual history of the human race (may be) the hunter squatting on the ground, studying the tracks of a quarry". Ginzburg himself is in direct line of descent from that robed clothed archetype. He may lack the squatting hunter's urgency, but he possesses a massive capacity for conjectural interpretation, for divination, for reading the signs. He possesses, too, a truly awesome sensitivity to nuance and gradation — he discerns particularities, he can spot a spectrum where others might see a monochromatic blob. He is thus contemptuous of polarizations and drawn to subjects demanding a delicate acuity for illumination. This is a micro-axeman, not an axeman.

... all of which is fine, save that it inspired fastidiousness fosters a heretic self-regard: one longs — no other, no doubt, and shamefully — for an axeman-historian who falls trees in order to illuminate the wood. Ginzburg is, very likely, a historian's historian. Like say, Robert Danton (*The Great Cat Massacre*), but unlike Richard Cobb or Simon Schama, he does not feel it incumbent upon himself to transform history into literature. He is too ingenuous or too arrogant or simply unwilling to put a spot of spin on his stuff. I think such a beweenment is philistine, a symptom of academic veruacism. He will probably consider me philistine for having even alluded to the matter of responsibility.

He is not disdainful of the notion of narrative. Venetically obsessed, he explores the origins of narrative to hunting society, to "relating the experience of deciphering tracks". Is there nothing that cannot be provenanced by the tale of man and quarry? Yet his actual grasp of narrative practice is weak. His subjects are fascinating, his treatment of them is characterized by

## Signs of the times

MYTHS, EMBLEMS, CLUES  
By Carlo Ginzburg  
Translated by John and Anne C. Tedeschi  
Hutchinson, £16.95

diversions that spawn further diversions, by qualifications that demand their own qualifications.

*Myths, Clues, Emblems*, comprises eight essays with recurring preoccupations and themes: the subjects include Hitler's various uses of pagan Germanic mythologies, Freud and lycanthropy, Freud and Sherlock Holmes, an early 16th-century inquisitorial trial of a witch at Modena (the story of such trials that have not been scrutinized by recent historians must be rung low). Ginzburg claims in his introduction that he is "guided by chance and curiosity, not by a conscious strategy".

None the less, he persistently concerns himself with critical analyses of past historiographical methods, and with investigations of the manner in which irreverent (religious delusion, folk credence, magic, ancestral myth) contaminates the everyday.

It would be impudent to suggest that Ginzburg has anything so generalized as a "lesson" to teach, but in his endlessly obfuscating

catory way he does demonstrate the hideous thread that links the Inquisition, the Third Reich, and the Iran of Khomeini — at least, I think he demonstrates it — his fondness for scoring points off his little enemies who have previously laboured in the same poisoned garden militates against an unequivocal statement.

While Ginzburg may not, as I say, attempt to create literature, he does subscribe to the now rather aged literary vogue for self-consciousness and integral self-criticism. His kind of scholarship lends itself to fruitful parody; when conducted in earnest, it is prone to self-parody — which is different, for the player is unaware of the game he is playing; the gulf we call irony is missing. More than a quarter of this book is made up of footnotes, and the text itself is dense with parentheses, words in quotes, cornucopias of hanging clauses and — when it suits the author — imprecisions of the sort he elsewhere rails against ("Gombrowicz's ties to the Vienna school, and in general to Viennese cultural circles, were very close"). This is the visible surface. However, were we to go to work on Ginzburg the way he does on others we might eventually conclude that he is not so po-faced.

Behind the energetically embroidered arms of his essays lurks a saga of really quite venomous spats at oral history colloquia, of library annexes disturbed by eureka hand-rubbing at the prospect of colleague assassination, of triumphs in the letters columns of journals whose circulation sometimes reaches three figures, of treacherous shifts from the camp that believes in the primacy of rite to that which believes in the primacy of myth, of misattributions gleefully exposed and misinterpretations pitifully disposed of in epigrams that are only 5,000 words long.



Nazi aesthetics: relief by Arno Breker. Ginzburg explores the links between the Third Reich, the Spanish Inquisition and modern Iran

## Casting doubt on the nation's finest hour

John Grigg

1940  
Myth and Reality  
By Clive Ponting  
Harrington, £15.99  
THE BATTLE OF FRANCE  
10 May to 22 June 1940  
Six Weeks that Changed the World  
By Philip Warner  
Simon & Schuster, £16

The fiftieth anniversary of 1940 was bound to tempt publishers into commissioning celebratory or revisionist works, which would then be promoted with undue hype. For Clive Ponting's new book, for instance, the claim is made that it "reveals the powerful myths that have grown up around what Churchill dubbed Britain's 'finest hour'". We are asked to believe that the heroic view of Britain's stand in 1940, under Churchill's leadership, is substantially mythical, and that Mr Ponting's revelations are original. This itself, however, is a myth at least as powerful as any that have grown up about 1940. In so far as the author is pointing to genuine myths, in nearly every case he is following work already done by others; where his judgements or assertions are original, they tend to be unconvincing.

His treatment of Churchill's advent to supreme power is a good illustration of this. While stating correctly, though by no means as an original revelation, that "Halifax was favoured by the overwhelming majority of those at the top of political life", he goes on to suggest that Churchill's silence at 10 Downing Street on May 9, 1940, was not all that important in determining the succession to Chamberlain, because Halifax did not want to be prime minister anyway. The truth, surely, is that Halifax did not want to be prime minister unless he could count on

Churchill's enthusiastic support, because he knew that Churchill was more favourably regarded by Press and public (a fact not mentioned by Mr Ponting). If, therefore, at the Downing Street meeting Churchill, instead of holding his tongue, had urged Halifax to take the job while offering to serve as his loyal lieutenant, the wrong man might well have become leader.

Mr Ponting seeks not only to present Churchill's appointment as prime minister in a relatively undramatic light, but also to question the sincerity and significance of his leadership in 1940. His public attitude of defiance masked (it is said) a willingness to come to terms with the enemy, at any rate after a few months. His government did not really break with the past; it was reactionary as well as incompetent. His speeches in 1940 did not have the effect that folklore has attributed to them, and two evening broadcasts of speeches made earlier in the day in the House of Commons were delivered by an actor. Such is the Ponting line.

The actor story is, I am sure, a canard, at least so far as Churchill's broadcasts to the British nation are concerned. But even if it were true, it would not alter the fact that the speeches themselves were his own, nor would it detract from their immense influence at home and abroad. His words swiftly became as familiar as quotations from Shakespeare, whether broadcast or spoken only in Parliament.

1940, and what enabled him to be such an inspiration to others.

Of course he made many grave mistakes during his wartime premiership, but most of them were made after 1940. That was indeed his finest hour, and it may also have been the nation's, despite all that Mr Ponting can adduce to the contrary. He dwells relentlessly on anything that is demeaning or discreditable in the behaviour of individuals, and of the whole community, during that critical year, while ignoring or playing down all that was noble. The result is a grossly distorted picture.

To take just one example, he gives details of the children of "Establishment" people who were sent to safety in North America, without explaining that the vast majority of such people did not send their children out of the country, and without bothering to mention that the King and Queen, when advised to send the prince away, absolutely refused to do so.

Mr Ponting's general thesis is that British power was collapsing before the war (for this he draws heavily, though without sufficient acknowledgement, on Corelli Barnett), and that in 1940 we ceased altogether to be independent, when we were forced to sell our last North American securities and the United States began to dictate to us. But it is false to suggest that the Americans had everything their own way after 1940. At the Casablanca Conference in early 1943 it was British strategy — unfortunately — that prevailed.

It is a shame that Mr Ponting is so biased and jaundiced, because he has the technical equipment to be a good historian and he writes well.

Philip Warner's account of the Battle of France is less stylish, but also fairer and less pretentious. He, too, has little new to tell us, but he uses eye-witness material which, because published long ago, is now largely forgotten, such as Baden's *A French Officer's Diary* (1942), and Hans Habe's *A Thousand Shall Fall* (1942).

He shows how easily the Germans could have been stopped. Their amazing victory was due far more to psychological than to material factors. He also does some justice to the performance of French soldiers, as distinct from their leaders, though his account of the Dunkirk evacuation fails adequately to redress the moral balance between British and French in that episode, as falsified in the subsequent British mythology.

He seems not to have read

Nicholas Harman's *Dunkirk: the Necessary Myth* — to which Mr Ponting is clearly deeply indebted for his section on Dunkirk, though the scale of the debt could never be guessed from his routine reference to the book. Dunkirk was the one aspect of Britain's 1940 folk memory which did call for fundamental revision, until Mr Harman provided it 10 years ago.

## The odds against human existence

Science fiction fans, and even serious astronomers, love to imagine that space is full of intelligent life. Assuming that many stars have habitable planets, and that life will arise where it can, this seems almost reasonable. So where are the extra-terrestrial? Why is there no sign of them?

A narrow stratum of rock in Yoho National Park, British Columbia, has its own answer. The Burgess shale, 520 million years old, carries almost our earliest record of multi-cellular life. It is dense with the fossils of the very first evolutionary explosion of sea-dwelling creatures — worms, sponges, arthropods, or their earliest ancestors. Stephen Jay Gould recounts their discovery, their classification, and their remarkable implications for our place in the world.

His narrative has two strands.

David Jones

WONDERFUL LIFE  
Stephen Jay Gould  
Hutchinson Radius, £14.95

end of the Cambrian era. The scientific details of this discovery, and what it means, form the second strand of Gould's story. The renewed study of Walcott's collection and the field search for new specimens: the careful dissection and excavation of the fossils, one by one; the final reconstruction of each organism as a functioning being, all are compellingly described and beautifully illustrated.

Of all the seeming Burgess creatures, only one — a small, ribbon-like animal which Walcott had classified as a worm, and named *Pikaia* — is an ancestor of ours.

It is the only one with the beginnings of a backbone. It had no obvious advantages in the struggle for existence, and seems to have been extremely rare. Yet if *Pikaia* had perished, like the vast majority of its Cambrian fellows, we should never have been.

This doleful message, once you start to look for it, is repeated down the whole long history of our evolution.

Whenever conditions permit, life expands exuberantly into a prolific diversity of types and species. Most of them vanish in the subsequent extinction. The best or most advanced are not at all favoured in the catastrophe; survival seems purely a matter of chance. But life thereafter is limited to developing whatever potential is possessed by the survivors.

Five or six times in the geological record, a whole global ecology has been destroyed; each time, by the thinnest of desperate chances, the few lucky survivors have included some forms with real promise for further development. The mammals were the latest — and we are their promise.

And this is what the Burgess shale has to say to the science-fiction fans and the seekers after extra-terrestrial intelligence. Single-celled life, perhaps, may be quite common. But its development to intelligent civilization faces such merciless and repeated "obstacles" that in all the galaxy *Homo sapiens* may well be the only creature that has ever made it.

The odds against us were colossal. We are staggeringly lucky to be here at all. We are quite alone. And we won't get a second chance.



Philip IV, the Fair (1293-1350): the King of France on his lion throne, surrounded by his court, from *The Plantagenet Encyclopedia*, edited by Elizabeth Hallam (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95). Philip was an able, ruthless ruler who fought papacy, Templars, and the English in the Hundred Years War.

## SACKS

## Icidity as an artist

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GRAPHY  
Pasternak  
will, £6.95

good, and worth remembering when Patten is dismissed as just another "pop" artist.

Sainty is at a premium in Robert Crawford's *A Scottish Assembly* (Chatto, £5.99). These are quiet, obscure, vanishingly cleverly fashioned poems.

*My childhood passes on a bicycle*

*Down West Coats Road, beneath*

*our sycamore*

*That filters sunlight through the slow*

*Sidereal quiet of the suburb...*

Crawford never starts with a jolt of unique observation or a suddenly blinding flash of revelation; he at least never pretends that it lies within his compass to do so.

He is a decent sort of Scottish nationalist in verse, observing his own patch, committed to it. I like the way he uses scientific themes, and anecdotes about scientists and writers. At his best, he aspires to the kind of poetry of ideas that Hugh

MacDiarmid said he wanted, but hardly wrote.

Everything You've Heard Is True (Carcanet, £5.95) is Peter Sansom's first book of poems. Someone has described his art as "making stained-glass windows out of jam jars", and in its deliberate mixture of the imaginative and the everyday that seems spot on. The most memorable work here celebrates the poet's obsession with certain aspects of working life — darts and snooker on television, for instance. There are also some poems about the poet's childhood in Nottinghamshire that are as good as Tony Harrison's adventures in a similar vein. Altogether, a promising and unpredictable start.

Grace Nichols' *The Fat Black Woman's Poems* (Virago, £4.99) seem rather brash and obvious in comparison. This talented Guyanese — she has also published several children's books — uses gritty images and the rhythms of common speech with remarkable panache, but the effect is banal except in a handful of very short poems where she doesn't get out of breath in pursuit of some propagandist point.

only starts to speak after you've put a coin in his slot".

Her narrative is a diffuse jumble of wordliness, puerility and naivety. "It took only one hour for Andy to make a one-hour movie. Amadeus wrote four violin concerti, each in one day. But then..."

"When we are invited to the



Hegemony: a Victorian taxidermist dominates the animal kingdom

## Four legs good

Anna Bramwell

THE ANIMAL ESTATE: The English and Other Creatures in the Victorian Age  
By Harriet Ritvo  
Penguin, £6.99

Ritvo deals with animal-human relations in Victorian England: especially, cattle breeding and dog-showing, disease control among animals, zoos, and big game hunting. She argues that developments in these areas all reflect and justify things that she intensely dislikes about Victorian England, such as hierarchy, empire, social control, and attempts to prevent Indian villagers being eaten by tigers. Since Ritvo frames her thesis in the jargon of "project", "discourse" and "hegemony", she clearly believes such malign intentions can be taken for granted. Luckily for her, everything is concealed, covert, and oblique, which leaves interpretation up for grabs.

Anecdotal books can be fun, but here the "gosh, fancy that" bits are buried by sledge-hammer obsessions, contradictions, and weak evidence. It is, however, sometimes unintentionally funny, if loony, as with her claim that for the "elite breeders" of the Regency era, exhibiting prize cattle was "a way to enact a project of domination obliquely".

Ritvo also attributes the categorization of animals to the desire to legitimate human power over animals, human power over other

## PAUL THEROUX

Chicago Loop

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Peter Kemp, *The Sunday Times*

'Theroux's best for years'

Nicholas Best, *Financial Times*

'a gripping and sexy book'

Wendy Steiner, *Independent on Sunday*

'remarkable...a tour-de-force'

Anita Brookner, *The Spectator*

'a sexy, well-written and thought-provoking novel...CHICAGO LOOP is pretty hot stuff'

The *Sunday Correspondent*

'a book which demands to be read at a single sitting...shocking yet strangely moving'

Sunday Tribune

'an engrossing thriller that always entertains'

The *Listener*

HAMISH HAMILTON

pseud  
"oquist?

EDWARD  
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IES  
Violet  
£4.99

masterly interviewee, his magazine *Interview* re-sited the goalposts of the publicity game. He believed in Hollywood as fervently as any five-and-dime Judy Garland fan and yet devoted much of his career to parodying its values. His public pronouncements were calculated and candid, a sort of *faux-natif* double-act. Ultra Violet wonders if he might be a "venomous quist", who

مكتبة من الأصل



## THE ARTS

## Last call for Broadway hoofers

The final curtain comes down tonight on *A Chorus Line*, Broadway's longest running show. Holly Hill recalls some of the technical innovations it pioneered

**T**he lights go out forever tonight on *A Chorus Line*, the "one singular sensation" that began in a downtown workshop and became, at 6,137 performances, Broadway's longest-running show. When the lights went up on the first preview at the Shubert Theatre in July, 1975, they were nearly as revolutionary as the material they illuminated.

*A Chorus Line* has been credited with many "firsts", notably with being the first "concept musical", a show more about an idea or situation than a plot. Among its descendants currently playing in London are *Cats* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. The musical was also the first "conceived, directed and choreographed" by Michael Bennett, who had once been a chorus dancer himself, only to become a tragic statistic when, in 1987, he became the first Broadway star to die of AIDS.

Nearly obscured among the more glamorous firsts is a milestone in theatre history: *A Chorus Line* was the first Broadway show to use computerized lighting. The musical's Tony-winning lighting designer, Tharon Musser, remembers the computer board she and her crew christened "Sam".

"Musicals used to have follow

spots for ballads and dance lights for 'ballets', Musser recalls. "Michael Bennett knew more than most directors what lighting could do. *A Chorus Line* takes place inside the dancers' heads, and in their interaction with the director who's auditioning them. We discussed how we could let the audience know when the action was mental, and decided that it could be done using light."

"There was no way we could be subtle and fast with the old dimmer boards, which were operated by hand. You could have a cue on a count of tea, and the guy on one board would count differently to the guy on another. Or one would be drunk, and what you would get would be sloppy."

"So we had the first computerized lighting board on Broadway installed. However, 'Sam' was very primitive compared to lighting boards today; he would go out to lunch if you even sneezed. The only back-up we could get was two-scene preset boards, which meant literally that you could preset two scenes, run those cues, preset for two more, and so on for the whole 200 effects."

"During previews, I got a call: 'Sam's sick.' I went to the theatre with two assistants, and we

crammed into the stage manager's booth with the stage manager and an electrician. One assistant and I translated the computer cues for preset boards, and another (small) assistant sat on the floor between the large electrician's legs, calling circuit cues for him. We did the whole show that way. Sam is retired now; he's an historical



Michael Bennett, with cast, on the night that *A Chorus Line* became Broadway's longest run

exhibit at a fighting company. The newer boards are much more sophisticated."

Musser believes that "computerized lighting would have happened eventually, but it came about earlier than it might have because Michael Bennett trained the technical people as thoughtfully as the actors. The success of *A*

*Chorus Line* was a first for all of us. The day after the reviews came out, Michael and his assistant Bob Avian and I drove around town in a limousine stuffed with opening night flowers, looking at the ticket lines growing outside the theatre. Even then, none of us realized the impact the show would have on theatre."

## Beau of Bolsover

**THEATRE**  
Martin Cropper

THE House of Commons is home to some great radio faces — one thinks of Roy Hattersley, of Nicholas Ridley and Clare Short — and this remains the prime attraction of television's parliamentary coverage. Soundtrack alone could never do these shambling buffoons justice, because it cannot give context to the humanity of their recorded speeches. Only when one sees them in action does the penny drop: they are there because no one else will have them.

Peter Sissons has a great television voice — well-modulated and authoritative — but this is best appreciated on radio. *Talking Politics* (Radio 4) is a new Saturday morning series marking his debut in the medium. His first effort concerned the forthcoming Commons vote on whether visual coverage of the chamber's proceedings should continue.

The news that Dennis Skinner, the "beast" of Bolsover, has smartened his appearance over the past two sessions will have come as a shock to those familiar with his current sartorial standards. What on earth can he have been like in former times? Mary Spillane, head bufoon of an image-making agency called Colour Me Beautiful was introduced as the mastermind behind the refreshed public personas of more than 50 MPs. Who are they, and when can we see the "before" and "after" photographs?

*To tell the truth laughing* (Radio 4, Thursday) examined the current state of British satire, characterized by one caustic voice as "a useful corrective to the importance [sic] and pomposity and wrongheadedness of politicians of all persuasions". That voice belonged to David Steel, whose "appearances" on *Spitting Image* are widely supposed to have influenced the Alliance's showing in the 1987 General Election, but who cannot now bring himself to protest on air. And Roy Hattersley — "I am the eponymous hero" — has "no problem" with the show's gleeful assertion that he spits when he speaks. But all these things are just the label on a can of worms. Personal derogation in satire is the result of restrictive libel laws.

## Sweeping cynicism in line with its time

**THEATRE**  
Benedict Nightingale

*Troilus and Cressida*  
Swan, Stratford

BACK in 1907, *The Times* critic saw the authentic text of *Troilus* performed for the first time in 350 years, and concluded it was "impossible to arrange for the stage". We all make mistakes. Our century has proceeded to justify the play's sweeping cynicism about honour, courage, and every other virtue. And from Tyrone Guthrie in the 1950s to Adrian Noble in the 1980s, directors have proved it dramatically potent too.

Mark you, their stages have usually had enough acreage to embrace Homeric happenings. Sam Mendes's pimchy, sardonic revival takes place in the intimate Swan — but then, scholars suspect that the play was first performed not at the Globe, but at the Inns of Court. A theatrical debauchery chamber, which the Swan res-

embles, is suitable for what may be the most intellectually intricate of Shakespeare's plays. And if the Bard could trust Jacobean lawyers to imagine Trojan battlefields, there is no reason why we should fail to do so nowadays.

Guthrie and Noble both linked the play to that most disillusioning conflict, the First World War. Mendes seeks to broaden its scepticism by combining khaki tunics, medieval breast-plates and Greek helmets. These soldiers seem to be fighting at Marathon, Agincourt and the Somme all at once.

Amid these confusions, however, one can see the distinctions between the combatants that Shakespeare's text invites. The home team, the Trojans, are a cleaner lot, and not just because they have better access to barbers and dry cleaners. Led by Griffith Jones's stately Priam and David Troughton's cricket-captain Hector, they are always courtly, considerate and attractive.

Compare them with the Greek generals, slumped, grimy and sweaty, in their greatness. Their champions are Richard Ridings's Ajax, a roaring skinhead, and

Ciaran Hinds's Achilles, a dark, mocking hoodlum in leather, who might be on loan from a Los Angeles street gang.

But of course the play's cynicism extends from war to love, from Achilles' nobility to Cressida's fidelity. From the moment we meet Amanda Root, dangling her toes in the paddling pool that strangely appears in the middle of the stage, we sense that she is a flawed heroine. She is too knowing, too calculating, too Greek, and unlikely to match the hopes of Ralph Fiennes's Troilus. He has a raw, staccato energy when talking of war, but in love he is naive, too bashful, tentative, too Trojan.

I have seen subtler productions than this, but there is one performance which grows in comic size and complexity. Simon Russell Beale's Thersites looks like a blend of decaying dosser and dying sheep, with his sagging jowls, rheumy eyes and flasher's mac; he wriggles in glee at the evils around him, yet when he sums up the action as "nothing but wars and lechery", there is a hint of regret. At that moment he is Shakespeare's unlikely spokesman.

Three-hour show, I could not grasp a thematic link between the public strife and private grief.

This chasm is the most frustrating in that almost everything else about Felix Cross's musical is excitingly staged and vibrantly performed by Temba Theatre. The pathos Adjoa Andoh brings to her early scenes as Glory is given extra poignancy by her unexpectedly deep voice. Transfixed with terror as her skinny father approaches to play their "secret game", the tension in every muscle conveys a terrible desolation, underscored by musical blips on the saxophone and steel pans.

The eclectic resource of Cross's music was much admired in his *Mass Cards* last year. Here again he draws upon African, European and Caribbean forms for his chants and dances. The subtleties of his carnival rhythms are outside my field of competence, though they seemed to work against the expression of tender emotions. As a lyricist, he has a gift for such limpidly telling phrases as Glory's "We must pretend to be/have what we are meant to be", sung to an armful of beloved dolls.

Vonnie Rondell's set of steps and slender wooden galleries pro-

## A parable of fissures

**THEATRE**  
Jeremy Kingston

**Glory!**  
Lyric, Hammersmith

HOW apt a metaphor for the independence of a small Caribbean island is the execution of a young woman for killing the father who has raped her since she was a child? If the feeling is that the father represents the British colonial power (England, in this case) who corrupted the infant land, poisoning him with a deadly fish dish may seem just. Furthermore, since an oppressive religious morality (here Catholic) has also played its part, let a passing Cardinal be invited to join the family meal. Mother, too, who colluded in the incest.

If, on the other hand, it seems contradictory to identify self-rule with death by hanging, the dramatic structure collapses. For me, it lay in pieces long before the final chorus of "We are on the road", sung by triumphant citizens while young Glory is carried off-stage with a noose around her neck. When her evident fate became clear, an hour or two into this

three-hour show, I could not grasp a thematic link between the public strife and private grief.

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Vonnie Rondell's set of steps and slender wooden galleries pro-

vide visual interest, which Earl Warner's direction ably exploits, but Cross crams too much into his tale: politics and exploitation, Catholic hypocrisy and ecstatic pagan trance. Bearing heavily on the heroine's crisis, but not

integrating with it, they force the personal and the public dramas apart. With the music insistently trying to paper over the cracks, the show's split personality is at the same time demonstrated and denied.

1990

Adjoa Andoh: a poignantly deep-voiced Gloria

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## RECORDS

**JAZZ UPDATE**  
The Newport Jazz Festival  
All-Stars 8pm Concert '89  
(Concord CCD-4401)  
Impresario-cum-plant George Wein's travelling players  
present another pot-pourri of  
mainstream tunes. Ricky Ford  
and Scott Hamilton take the  
roles of Ben Webster and  
Coleman Hawkins.

**Joe Williams: In Good Company** (Verve 837932)  
An easy-going set by the ex-Basis singer, backed by  
musicians including Mad' Flor's Supersex and with duets  
featuring Shirley Horn and  
Mariena Shaw. If the ballads are  
perfunctory, the blues  
routines always come up to  
scratch.

## Slow starter

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

**Sheila Jordan: Portrait of Sheila** (Blue Note CDPT-99002)  
**Sheila Jordan & Harvie Swartz: Old Time Feeling** (Muse/Vogue 600608)  
**Cassandra Wilson: Jump World** (JMT 834434)

**T**he death of Sarah Vaughan earlier this month was a reminder that the ranks of world-class jazz singers are looking perilously thin. Though it may be unglamorous to mention it, most of those who remain active are, like Sheila Jordan, well into middle age.

Jordan, who is due back at London's Bass Clef venue next month, was a slow starter as far as recordings were concerned. Despite sitting in with Charlie Parker and other bebop players in clubs in the early Fifties, she did not make her studio debut until the autumn of 1962. Such was her talent that she was signed up by Blue Note, a label which normally showed little interest in vocalists.

Now re-issued on compact disc, *Portrait of Sheila* still sounds strikingly original. Like that other native of Detroit, Betty Carter, Jordan tackles material in the manner of an instrumentalist, making each addition to the lyrics appear wholly organic. "If You Could See Me Now", for instance, is based on a chord pattern used by the pianist Bill Evans. Those who find her later work too convoluted may be surprised by the confident, straight-ahead approach on "Am I Blue" or "Baltimore Oriole". Jordan's exceptional range — her main advantage over Carter — runs from the girlish tone of Bobby Timmons's "Dat Dere" to the jaded and husky "Hun Drum Blues". The spare accompaniment

often leaves no more than a whisper of the song structure, is provided by Barry Galbraith (guitar), Steve Swallow (bass) and Denzil Best (drums).

**O**ld Time Feeling is more typical of Jordan's current style. Recorded in 1982, it is another of her duets with the bassist Harvie Swartz. Few vocalists could rise above such a limited format. Jordan carries it off as well as anyone could, but does not always avoid self-indulgence. "Let's Face The Music And Dance", which runs to no more than a hectic minute and a quarter on the Blue Note disc, is stretched to almost five minutes on the later recording.

Cassandra Wilson is fast becoming the most hyped vocalist in recent years, thanks in part to her association with the circle of New York musicians led by saxophonist Steve Coleman. She is certainly a charismatic artist, never content with more technical gimmickry. And instead of dredging through the catalogue of old songs, she is pushing forward with contemporary work, much of it inspired by America's urban crisis.

But is the music on offer here really so innovative? Funk musicians such as George Clinton have been going over the same territory for decades, and doing it with more passion than Coleman and his colleagues. A much bigger problem is presented by Wilson's lyrics, a gauche mixture of agit-prop and mysticism. "I don't want your institutions/they won't give me a solution" surely belongs to the Kylie Minogue school of social criticism. It says much for Wilson that she makes such lines sound plausible. But to praise her work as new and important is to overlook all the developments in mainstream black music as far back as James Brown or Norman Whitfield's revamped *Temptations*.

## Galactic jaw-jaw

**SPOKEN WORD**  
Peter Davalle

**The Foundation Trilogy** (BBC Radio Collection ZBBC3011)  
**Jane Eyre** (Collins Caedmon CD3003)  
**The Merchant of Venice** (Collins Caedmon CD5209)

WORDS speak louder than action in Patrick Tull's seven-cassette adaptation of Isaac Asimov's master work, which austerely reverses the current fashion for space-wars adventure in space fiction. In other words, there's more jaw-jaw than war-war in this tale of the rise, fall and rise again of a galactic empire. On no account, unless you're an Asimov addict, should you attempt to take in all seven tapes at one sitting. *Jane Eyre* has been sensitively pruned down to two cassettes.

Anthony Quayle's measured speaking of Rochester's dialogue betrays an over-familiarity with the text and, more seriously, a marked reluctance to suggest the character's darker side. It is a reader's performance, not an actor's, whereas Claire Bloom's Jane is both.

*The Merchant of Venice* is the 1963 Shakespeare Recording Society discs superbly transferred to (two) cassettes. Hugh Griffiths, one of our best Lears, was also one of our best Shylocks. He does not chew the scenery, only gnaws at it like a rat.

And what a supporting cast! Everybody who was anybody in the 1960s is in it, from Dorothy Tutin, Ian Holm, Harry Andrews and Jeremy Brett to some who would soon be somebody (Ronnie Barker, Stephen Moore and Roy Marsden).

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## The prose and the passion

## CLASSICAL

Stephen Pettitt

**Bach: St John Passion Soloists/La Petite Bande/Kuijken** (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi GD77041) (2 discs)

**Bach: St Matthew Passion Soloists/Tözer Knabenchor/La Petite Bande/Leonhardt** (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi RD77848) (three discs)

**C. P. E. Bach: Die Letzten Leiden des Erbsohns Soloists/Collegium Vocale Gent/Le Petite Bande/Kuijken** (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi GD77042) (two discs)

**Alessandro Scarlatti: Passio Secundum Iacobum Soloists/Die Basler Madrigalisten/Schola Cantorum Basiliensis** (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi GD77111)

**Da Rore: Passio Domini Nostri Jesu Christi Secundum Johannem** (Huelgas Ensemble/van Nevel Deutsche Harmonia Mundi RD77994)



Emotional view: Kuijken conducts Bach's St John Passion

is also a reissue of C. P. E. Bach's

The Last Suffering of the Saviour, an undoubted, wonderfully expressive masterpiece in a startlingly original, concentrated, but thoroughly explored style composed in 1770, which I reviewed last year but which I am only too happy to recommend again to readers. Listen to the aria "Wende dich zu meinem Schmerze" if you want to discover a real treasure of a piece.

But first to the J. S. Bach Passions, and perhaps the most surprising thing about both Sigiswald Kuijken's conducting of the St John and Gustav Leonhardt's of the St Matthew is how tra-

ditional they now seem. The forces, of course, are pared down and the sound quality is clean and incisive. Yet both conductors hold strongly emotional views about this music, which is as it should be, and neither sacrifices devout spirituality (I know nothing of either's religious convictions) for the sake of dramatic effect.

As far as the solo singing is concerned, there is one very strange choice in both pieces. Instinctively one does not warm to the countertenor voice of René Jacobs in the St Matthew; it seems painfully harsh — but there is a more serious problem in his approach to this music, an approach that in my

view mutes the big, sustained arias like "Erbarne dich", from the St Matthew, and "Es ist vollbracht", from the St John. In a gross attempt at self-assertion he slips and slides from note to note, often with suspect intonation, and generally exaggerates in a way that would seem almost comically uncontrolled were it not so disruptive to atmosphere and style.

Jacobs's contributions are all the more unfortunate because otherwise the solo singing in both of these works is so distinguished. Christoph Prégardien is an ardent, powerful Evangelist for both the St John and the St Matthew; Max van Egmond a reliable Christus in the St Matthew; and Harry van der Kamp equally so, though a touch more measured about his singing perhaps, in the St John. Unlike Kuijken, Leonhardt opts for two boy treble soloists from the Tölz Boys' Choir; and both Christian Flieger and Maximilian Kienker sing with rare strength and expressivity. Kuijken also has three patches of arias to sing, incidentally, at the introduction, the conclusion, and the announcement of Christ's death. Another countertenor, the young Australian Graham Pushee, makes all too tantalizing a contribution in the role of Pontius Pilate, while the crowd scenes are delivered cleanly by the Basel Madrigalists.

Back another century and a half or so, and you would expect Cipriano de Rore's St John Passion to be altogether a more austere affair. But it is also a bold experiment, the first known passion to set the whole text in polyphony, and it contains plenty of subtle drama and contrast (and, through three extra-liturgical intermedii, an element of philosophical commentary), even though the chancery of the Passion is preserved rigidly intact. There are structural niceties, like the fact that the music for the narrator is always in four parts, the minor roles in two parts, the snatches of music for the crowd scenes in six and Christus's music in three, with an elaborated *caecus firmus* symbolizing, of course, the Holy Trinity, but if that implies complexity it should not. This is above all a direct, simple-sounding music, and the always delicately arranged five voices and half-dozen instruments of the Huelgas Ensemble, directed by Paul van Nevel, perform it in appropriate manner, devout but not colourless.

## CLASSICAL UPDATE

**Bach: Cello Suite in C, Carter: Chamber works** (ECM 1391)

Thomas Demenga gives a persuasive, unaffected performance of the Bach, and is joined by friends in a Carter group which includes the abstract comedy Triple Duo and the first recording of the delightful *Enchanted Preludes* for flute and cello.

**Ligeti: Horn Trios, etc.** (Wergo/Harmonia Mundi WER 60100-2)

Ligeti's major work of the early 1960s, a clarinets Brahms machine, coupled with the equally weird and wonderful *Monument-Selbstporträt-Bewegung* for two pianos, played by the Camino-Balista duo, and a group of harpsichord pieces.

**Ligeti: Various works** (Wergo/Harmonia Mundi WER 60161-50)

A wonderland miscellany of Ligeti's experiments, extravagances and comedies, including his two electronic pieces of the 1950s, the classic *Continuum* for harpsichord, the magical *Ten Pieces* for wind quintet and the three extraordinary organ works of the 1960s.

## ROCK UPDATE

**Fleetwood Mac: Behind the Mask** (Warner Bros 7559 26208-2)

Lindsey Buckingham is replaced by two singing guitarists, Billy Burnette and Rick Vito, but the music continues to sound lush, bland and vacuous.

**Jiggy Pop: Lust for Life** (Virgin America OVED 278) **The Idiot** (Virgin America OVED 277)

"Mid-prices" re-issues of two of the motor city madman's most vital albums, both produced by David Bowie and originally released in 1977. *Lust for Life* features the Tin Machine rhythm section-to-be. There is a wondrous, scrappy energy permeating gems like "The Passenger", "Some Weird Sin" and the original "China Girl".

**Tom Verlaine: The Wonder** (Fontana 842 420-2)

The ex-TV-singer-guitarist-singer-songwriter remains a maverick, slightly here, whose abstract visions never quite hit the mark. Here he plows moodily over spooky backing tracks and guitar lines sharpened on razor strips, but lacks for a good chorus, apart from the Lloyd Cole-ish "Stingard".

Part 27 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

**THE JAM**

**B**orn during, but not of, the punk upheavals of 1976, The Jam shot off a volley of singles — "In The City", "The Modern World", "News Of The World" — grounded on the principle of the short, sharp shock. Their immaculate, severe look was New Wave mod, the fury of their live shows in perfect accord with the times. It took them a while to master the album format, but *All Mod Cons* (1978) is a near-perfect distillation, combining tense, barbed misses like "A Bomb in Wardour Street", with touches of classic English rock such as Ray Davies's "David Watts". Singer and songwriter Paul Weller maintained a simmering rage that boiled over into *Setting Sons* (1979) and produced a string of No 1 hits, including "Going Underground" and "Start", all featured on *Snap* (1983). Weller unilaterally disbanded The Jam in 1982 and started the dreary Style Council, an implausible attempt to recycle the soul roots which he suddenly claimed to have had all along.

**Songwriter: Paul Weller**

**Jefferson Air-Plane/Starship**

**F**ormed by the original Acid Queen, Grace Slick, Jefferson Airplane was one of the giants of the San Francisco counter culture. Surrealistic *Pillow* (1967), incorporating the US hits "White Rabbit" and "Somebody To Love" (though missing the former on the bowdlerized version released in Britain), is a mesmeric mix of space-blues, folk and rock, laced with wobbly guitar lines and trippy hippie lyrics. *Bless Its Pointed Little Head* (1968), a live album which captures great performances of "Fat Angel", "Rock Me Baby" and "Bear Melt", represents the group's finest hour. After a tortuous succession of personnel changes and legal wrangles, the band had metamorphosed by 1985 into the AOR warhorse Starship, with Slick now the premier blue-rinse rocker. An unlikely run of US No 1 singles ensued. Of these "We Built This City" and "Sara" are included on *Knee Deep In The Hoopla* (1985), a title which, by this stage, pretty well sums the operation up.

NEXT WEEK: Jethro Tull, Billy Joel

## TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

## THE TIMES



**R**ound 5 is the last of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind finals. By now, 110 finalists and 10 school teams will be on tenterhooks awaiting this final instalment in the challenge. They are competing for £5,000 or, for the schools, a Hewlett Packard computer. Only those who have been notified as finalists may enter answers for the final rounds. Entries must be received by the last post on Friday May 4.

They must be sent to *The Times* Tournament of the Mind, Mensa, Mensa House, St John's Square, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AH. Entries must not be sent to *The Times*.

**Times** The same basic rules apply as for the initial stage of the Tournament. Mensa has devised the questions using the *Collins English Dictionary* (second edition) and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (15th edition). Where answers gained from other sources differ from those gained from the cited references, the latter will be deemed correct.

The winning school team will be decided from the results of these five rounds. The answers will be published in the week beginning May 7. There was an error in the diagram in Round 4. The second row of letters should begin with O, not M.

## 1. DIAGRAMS

Three planets are in orbit around a sun. They are now in line with each other and their sun and all move in a clockwise direction. The outer planet takes 153 years to complete its orbit, the middle one 17 years and the inner one 9 years. When will they next form a straight line with each other and their sun?



## 2. VERBAL

Find the religious word in the first set of letters, and repeat for each of the four sets. Which set of letters is the odd word out and why?

**ZODRAM**  
**SHASSANOY**

## 4. LOGIC

What is the next pair of letters in this series?

**VN** **TS** **DN**  
**NA** **TN** **??**

## 3. MATHS

Find the logic behind these sequences and replace the question mark

## GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak reports on some of the NCCPG's plans during Garden Heritage Week

## Look behind the scenes

The name of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens has a weighty, almost Victorian, resonance, but 11 years after it was founded, NCCPG trips readily off the tongue of its 7,500 members. The NCCPG is an important association because it concentrates on *plants* and *gardens*, recognizing the relationship between the two in a way that horticulturists and landscape experts often do not.

The NCCPG's Garden Heritage Week, which stretches to include two weekends from today until next Sunday, opens a window for non-members on the activities of local groups. In conjunction with the National Trust and some large private estates, there are special arrangements for visitors to "meet the gardener", who will introduce the historical and horticultural context of his or her particular garden, and conduct a guided tour.

Today you can meet the gardener and attend a plant sale at Anglesey Abbey, at Lode in Cambridgeshire (6m NE of Cambridge) on B1102 - garden walk 6.30pm, and tomorrow at Kiftsgate Court in Gloucestershire, well-known to gardeners as the home of the rambling white single rose which bears its name (3m NE of Chipping Camden, near Mickleton - 2.6pm, also Fri, Sat and May 6). On Wednesday at Knightsayes Court, Devon, there is an evening garden walk, with a lecture by the head gardener, Michael Hickson, on "The Influence of the Orient on Knightsayes" (2m N of Tiverton, right off A396 at Bolham - 6.30pm).

The inauguration day of the Northamptonshire NCCPG is being celebrated tomorrow afternoon, 2.6pm, at Coton Manor Gardens (10m N of Northampton, signed from A428 and A50), where visitors

may meet the owner and, if they become NCCPG members, can gain free entry to the plant sale and gardens.

One of the most significant achievements of the NCCPG is the establishment of national collections of plants. These keep together garden cultivars within specific groupings, so that good garden plants do not disappear simply because, for example, they are not particularly profitable for garden centres.

Some collections are held by established organizations: the National Trust at Motisfield Abbey in Hampshire (4½m NW of Romsey) holds the national collection of pre-1900 shrub roses in the walled garden (open from tomorrow to Thurs, 2.6pm; meet the gardener Tues and Thurs, 2.30pm).

Some collections are held by enterprising local authorities which, where possible, display them in public places. The national collection of the strange primrose-like plants, alpine auriculas (held by Leeds City Council), is being exhibited in Golden Acre Park (garden open for NCCPG members, Wed, 7pm). Professional nurseries also take part in the collection scheme, and Rogers of Pickering (Malton Road, 1m S of Pick-

ering on A169) will show its display bed of stork-bills (*Erodium*) from today until next Saturday, 9am-5pm.

Some collections are held privately. Mrs A. Stevens grows national collections of moisture-loving lobelias and globe flowers (*Trollius*) in her stream-irrigated garden. Ivy Cottage, Ainsty, Dorset, 12m NE of Dorchester, first left after pub in Dowlash, through Chelcombe to Ainsty, then first right before Fox Inn - Thurs, 10am-5pm. At Swallow Hayes (Rectory Road, Alblington, 7m NW of Wolverhampton) in the West Midlands, a professional gardener's private garden with a national collection of wych-hazels opens tomorrow afternoon.

Anyone interested in the practical organization of the national collection scheme can book for Tony Lord's May Day lecture at Plumpton Agricultural College, Ditchling Road, near Lewes, East Sussex (7.30pm).

This year the Garden Heritage Week has an oriental theme, with many gardens showing off plants from China and Japan, or staging special displays. In London, indoor and garden displays at the Chelsea Physic Garden (66 Royal Hospital Road, Chel-

sea, London) show this garden's long-standing association with the Far East (Wed, 2.5pm). At the Proboscis County Demonstration Gardens in Cornwall (5m NE of Truro on A390), there is a lecture on the Japanese garden (May 6, 2.30pm), as well as walks (Tues, Wed and Fri, 2.30pm), Tatton Park Gardens in Cheshire (signed 3½m N of Knutsford), with its collection of Japanese and Chinese plants (open all week), is giving a day-long demonstration of how to make a Japanese garden (May 7).

Local NCCPG groups try to organize an event every month to six weeks. These include garden visits, often to gardens not normally open to the public, lectures and informal talks (where useful items such as fine-tipped indefatigable pens and plant labels can be purchased). Among the most popular events are the practical demonstrations on propagation and plant care.

The NCCPG has played its part in reviving interest in less common garden plants, which, for some reason, have been ignored by the major nurseries. Small nurseries which cater for this need are multiplying, but many NCCPG members find that swapping among themselves, or attending local plant sales, provides a fund of exceptional plants. There are many spring plant sales in the coming week, including the Museum of Garden History's Tradescant Trust Spring Fair (St Mary's Lambeth, just over Lambeth Bridge, London tomorrow, 11am-4.30pm); the Hunter's Fair at Dunham Massey Hall (3m SW of Altrincham on A56, Cheshire - May 13, noon-5.30pm). Also garden tour Thurs, 2pm; Sparsholt College, Winchester (May 7, 2.5pm).

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## SHOPPING

JAMES MERRILL

# Creating that specific look

Refurbishing your home to obtain a period feel will not break the bank if you are prepared to do it yourself. Nicole Swengley has compiled this guide

**C**reating a period feel in your home can be done without breaking the bank if you know where to shop. You do not need to own an Elizabethan dower house or a Regency town house to introduce a convincing flavour of the past. Whether you favour the elegance of art nouveau or a rustic country style, it is possible to create a specific look with a clever mix of furniture, wall coverings, fabrics, lighting and other accessories.

Now that many home-owners are refurbishing properties in their original style rather than trading up, more of us are searching out suppliers who will meet our needs for period interior design ideas. But while DIY stores meet many of the basic needs, restoring fine detail is more difficult.

Suppliers all around the country are a rich source of original pieces to restore, while other outlets offer the potential for combining reproductions and classic re-editions.

## FABRICS &amp; TEXTILES

Ramm, Son & Crocker has specialized in printed furnishings for more than 100 years and all its fabrics designs are taken from the company's archives containing 18th and 19th-century examples.

• *Ramm, Son & Crocker, Chiltern House, Knives Bazaar, Business Centre, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 9XY (023 850777).*

Marilyn Garrow runs an unusual antique textile shop in Barnes, west London. A colourful collection of cushions, throws, bolts of fabric, shawls, table-runners, friezes and samplers includes pieces spanning the centuries, from ancient burial finds to the jazz patterns of the art deco era.

• *Marilyn Garrow, 6 The Broadway, White Hart Lane, Barnes, London SW13 (01-592 1653).*

Anyone looking for replicas of original Victorian patterns should visit Watts & Co. The company has its own archives, which it consults for many hundreds of period designs for its reproductions.

• *Watts & Co, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QE (01-222 2893).*

## WALLPAPERS

Sanderson's archive contains about 10,000 hand-blocked and machine-printed wall papers. Renowned for the Morris & Co collection, Sanderson also has designs from the 1850s to 1960s which can be hand-block printed on request.

• *Sanderson, 52-53 Berners Street, London W1P 3AD (01-636 7800).*

Sisters, Susanna, Baer and Caroline Ingram are wallpaper

enthusiasts whose Loxton interior design shop houses one of the most comprehensive libraries of hand-blocked wall-papers in the country, along with contemporary interpretations of traditional patterns.

• *Baer & Ingram, Upstairs, 152 Walton Street, London SW3 2JJ (01-581 9077).*

The family-run company Cole & Sons is renowned for the quality of its hand-block printing of wall-papers and borders from a range of antique wood-blocks dating back to 1780.

• *Cole & Son, 18 Mortimer Street, London W1A 4BU (01-380 2288).*

• **ORNAMENTATION**

Decorative plasterwork — cornices, ceiling roses, friezes, coining and architraves — can be the key to restoring a home to its original style. G. Jackson, a division of Clark & Fenn, makes plasterwork from the original moulds used when the company was established in 1780, with Robert Adam as co-founder.

• *G. Jackson & Sons, Unit 19, Mitcham Industrial Estate, Mitcham Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AJ (01-648 4343).*

• **TRIMCRAFT RESTORATIONS**

Unit 9 Industrial Estate, Station Road, Semley, Shropshire, Dorset, SP7 9AJ (01747 52940).

Restoration of antique chairs, including French polishing and upholstery, is undertaken by a small Cheshire workshop which also makes copies of antiques to "make up" incomplete sets.

• *A. Allen Antiques Restorer, Buxton Road, Newtown, New Mills, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 3JS (0663 45274).*

Traditional woodworking methods are used to restore period chairs at Taylor & Brook. New legs can be made, and even chairs in poor condition can be given a new life.

• *Taylor & Brook, 56 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6LE (0789 69604).*

• **RE-CANING/RUSHING**

Chairpersons specialize in caning and rush seating of all types, including medalion/spiral and fan backs, Danish-cord, willow, double-faced cane, pre-woven cane for modern chairs, and any kind of woven seat. Repairs, including woodwork, take about a month and callers are welcome by appointment.

• *Chairpersons of Marpfield, 40 High Street, Marpfield, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8LP (0225 891431).*

M&F Cane will tackle any type of caning, except wicker, for antique, reproduction and contemporary chairs. It has a fortnightly collection and delivery service in London.

• *M&F Cane, 10 Derby Road, South Woodford, London E18 01-503 0198.*

Established more than 100 years ago, Wycombe Cane & Rush originally made cane chairs but now concentrates on repair work; a dining chair will cost £40-£60. It will also undertake woodwork repairs and seats in Dutch rush.

• *Wycombe Cane & Rush, Oakmead, Victoria Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire 0894 442429.*

Neville Hymus offers all caning patterns and will also re-seat chairs in rush, cord and cane. A sidechair costs about £28 in cane and a caner £25.

Repairs to modern furniture — for example, where panels of cane are just glued in — can also be undertaken.

• *Wellington Crafts, 123 St John's Road, Waterloo, Liverpool 051-920 5511.*

## FURNITURE

Somerset Country Furniture, which restores antiques, has introduced a range of new furniture, painted and unpainted, with an antique look.

The rustic-style pieces include dressers, servers, farmhouse tables, galley chests, benches, beds (half-testers and four-posters), chairs, cupboards and chests of drawers.

• *Somerset Country Furniture, The Old Chapel, Church Street, Ilminster, Somerset BA22 8LN (0935 341212).*

The warehouse-style Art Furniture store offers low-cost original pieces from the late 19th- to mid-20th century. A Thirties mirror, for example, may cost £30, while an Arts & Crafts sofa can be bought for around £500.

• *Art Furniture, 158 Camden Street, London NW1 9PA (01-267 4329).*

## CHAIR REPAIRS

Ian Skinner, a qualified joiner, tackles all kinds of woodwork repairs, and his experience in restoring vintage cars means he is willing to bend his skills to metalwork repairs as well.

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• **Timcraft Restorations**

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• **TOPIKRAFT RESTORATIONS**

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Attention to small details, such as replacing plastic switches with wooden alternatives, can make a huge

difference to a refurbishment project. Woods Electrical has a good selection of switches in oak, chestnut and reclaimed mahogany in a range of stains.

• *Woods Electrical Accessories, Goodleigh House, Blackborough, Culmpton, Devon EX15 2JA (0823 680774).*

Tailor-made wood turnings such as table legs and bedposts, are the speciality of Gifford Mead, who can also supply ready-made staircase spindles, newel posts and handrails in Victorian and Edwardian designs.

• *Gifford Mead, The Furniture Cave, 533 King's Road, London SW10 072 (01-352 6008).*

## PERIOD DETAILS

Original ceramic knobs and pulls, fashionable in Regency and Victorian days, are almost impossible to find now, but Top Knobs offers a hand-painting service reproducing almost any shape, colour or pattern or special finish.

• *Top Knobs, 4 Brunel Building, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 4PB (0626 63388).*

The chances of finding an original mirror, in sufficiently

good condition, to hang over a fireplace is slim. Hand-crafted reproduction mirrors, however, look good and cost a fraction of their Regency or Edwardian equivalents. Overmantels offers mirrors made of silvered Pilkington glass in about 20 classic shapes and styles, from ornamental gilt to polished pine or mahogany.

• *Overmantels, 66 Battersea Bridge Road, London SW11 3AG (01-223 8151). Also at 3 Highgate High Street, London N6 5JR (01-348 8362).*

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## SOURCE BOOK

When Mitchell Beazley published *Period Details*, a source book on interior restoration by Judith and Martin Miller two years ago, it became a best-seller within a month.

Four reprints and 92,000 copies later, the Millers produced a sequel, *Period Style* (£19.95). In contrast to *Period Details*, which focused on fixtures and fittings — doors, windows, fireplaces — *Period Style* concentrates on the movables — furniture, fabrics, colour schemes, lighting, even flower arrangements.

439 0216; 10 Tunsgate, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3QT (0483 506941).

• *London Door Company, 116 St John's Hill, London SW11 1TQ (01-223 7243).*

Any looking for restored antique fireplaces in wood, cast iron or marble, or reproduction fire-side accessories such as grates, fire-backs and coal scuttles, could try Townsends, the salvage specialists, who also sell gas coal/leg effect fires. Fitting service within London.

• *Townsends, 81 Abbey Road, London NW8 0AE (01-624 4756).*

The company has two other branches (mirrors, glazed doors, panelling, hand-rail and stained glass) at 3a Piccadilly, London, NW1 9PH (01-465 8611) and (garden furniture and ornaments, brass door fittings and decorative tiles) 1 Church Street, London NW8 8EE (01-724 3746).

• **RE-CANING/RUSHING**

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• **HARDWARE**

Victorian-style tesselated flooring can be re-created by alternating patterned and plain tiles. Paris Ceramics, the London tile specialists, offers a range of nine unglazed, decorated floor tiles and complementary plain tiles plus borders. The tiles are well-suited to heavy-traffic areas such as halls, kitchens and garden rooms.

• *Paris Ceramics, 543 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 3RL (01-228 5785 and 01-924 1281).*

John Williamson set up the London Door Company six years ago to cater for the growing number of people who wanted period-style

• *Available from bathroom showrooms nationwide, or call Santon on 0734 868900 for local stockists.*

Czech & Speake has introduced the Cubist range of bathroom taps with an authentic art deco feel. The taps come in a chrome, nickel or black finish. The fittings are British-made and cast in solid brass.

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

## CONCERTS



**RHENISH SPRING:** Soon to conduct the New York Philharmonic, Kurt Masur (above) meanwhile conducts the London Philharmonic in Schumann's Symphony No 3 "Spring" and 3 "Rhenish" along with Brahms's St Anthony Variations. Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Mon.

**LUPU AND ORPHEUS:** A connoisseur's pianist, Radu Lupu solo in Mozart's Concerto K 453 with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, which also plays Haydn's Symphony No 91 and — something unusual — Jean Francaix's 9 Characteristic Pieces for Wind Octet. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 6891). Tomorrow.

**COMPLETE THREE:** Genuine Spanish music in the form of Falla's complete *Three-Cornered Hat* is heard from the RPO under Andrew Litton as are foreign imitations such as Chabrier's *Espana* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnole*. Festival Hall (as above). Tues.

**FROM VIENNA:** Such diverse Viennese classics as Weber's Symphony Op 21, Mozart's Symphony No 39 and Berg's Chamber Concerto are delivered by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. City Hall, Candleriggs, Glasgow (041 227 5511). Wed.

**THE BIG F:** Los Angeles band with an impressive Hendrix-influenced guitarist, but whose roaring singer lets the side down. Marquee, London WC2 (01-437 6603). Tues.

## ROCK

**ANSON FUNDERBURGH & THE ROCKETS:** Noted Texan blues guitarist and his band, featuring the vocals and searing Delta harmonica of veteran Sam Myers. Town & Country, London NW5 (01-284 0303). Thurs.

**TOM VERLAINE:** Two solo acoustic performances only (7pm and 9.45pm) by the former Television guitarist-singer-songwriter. Bloomsbury, London WC1 (01-387 9629). Fri.

**BILLY BRAGG:** Man of the people touting a new mini-album of "political songs for all occasions", fetchingly titled *The Internationale*. Eden Court, Inverness (0463 221718). Thurs.

**JERMAINE JACKSON:** Chicago-bred dancer-turned-singer, pedalling a new album *What Becomes a Legend Most?*, but still fondly remembered for his 1986 hit "We Don't Have to Take Our Clothes Off". Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031 228 1164). Fri.

**JETHRO TULL:** Gnarled throwback to rock's so-called "progressive" era. Capitol, Aberdeen (0224 583141). Fri.

**URBAN DANCE SQUAD:** High-energy Dutch break-hip hop collective which calls to mind a bizarre range of acts encompassing Fishbone, Justified Ancients Of Mu Mu, Tackhead Sound System, the Beastie Boys, Anthrax and Manu Negra. Subterania, London W10 (01-951 5490). Tues.

**HEART:** High calibre adult-oriented rock from the Canadian veterans. Their latest album, *Brigade*, boasts fine performances from the Wilson sisters and a ballsy production by Richie Zito that puts the new Fleetwood Mac album to shame. Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 665225) Mon; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) Fri. Sat 5.

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**THE BIG**



Worcestershire show strength in depth in opening championship match

# D'Oliveira comes to rescue

By Jack Bailey

ONE of the chief reasons for Worcestershire's winning of the Britannic Assurance county championship last year was the sterling work of their second-line bowlers and bowlers rose to the occasion in the absence of the established Test cricketers. Yesterday, they were at full strength but the pattern was similar. This time Damian d'Oliveira, with only the seventh hundred of his career, set them on an even keel after they had been in grave danger of sinking with all hands.

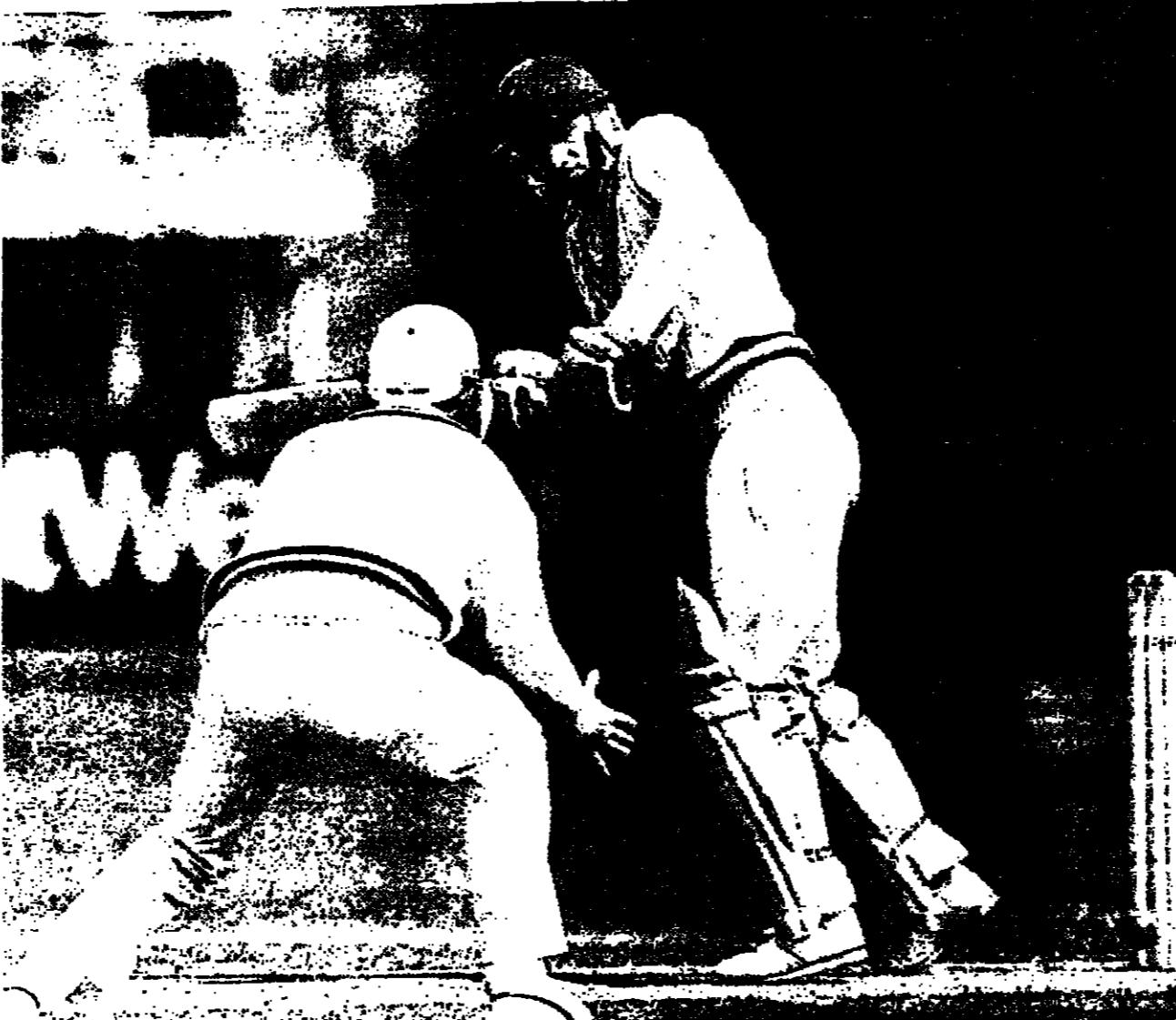
d'Oliveira was accompanied by Rhodes in a face-saving and possibly match-winning century partnership after Worcestershire had lost their first five batsmen for 56, even before the tables had been laid for lunch. The pitch was on the slow side but there was encouragement for the seam bowlers. Patterson made two early breakthroughs and Watkinson accounted for Hick, who looked full of menace, but it was d'Oliveira who impressed most, bowling tirelessly for long spells with no luck at all.

Curtis seemed to be setting out his stall methodically when he played an uncharacteristic hook, fetching a long hop from outside off stump and lofting it towards long-leg where DeFreitas had faced only 129 balls.

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Worcestershire First Innings  
T S Curtis c DeFreitas b Patterson 7  
G A Hick c Watkinson b Rhodes 23  
K D Botham c Heege b DeFreitas 17  
I T Botham c Heege b DeFreitas 19  
D A Watkinson c Watkinson 21  
D J Rhodes not out 61  
Extras 123  
Total (6 wkt, 94 overs) 355  
P J Newport, R H Ringrose, N V Radcliffe and R H Studd in bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-25, 3-48, 4-65, 5-86.

LANCASHIRE: G D Mencia, G Flower, M Atherton, N H Fletcher, M Watkinson, D A Watkinson, P J Newell, P J Newell, P J Newell, J D Finch, T E messy and B P Patterson. Umpires: J C Balderson and H D Bird.



ALISTAIR GRANT

## Maximum points for Leicestershire

By Geoffrey Wheeler

Leicestershire batted with a sense of purpose which would have won the approval of their new coach, Bobby Simpson, who arrives next week, as they became the first side this season to achieve a maximum haul of batting bonus points, against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

With Gower gone to fresh pastures and Willey unfit, Leicestershire fielded only one Test batsman, James Whitaker, and he was one of the minor contributors to a score of 343 for nine, the later stages of the innings being controlled by a home-produced player in Martyn Gidley, aged 21, who

### Notts v Derbyshire

TRANSPORT BRIDGE: Derbyshire, with eight first-wickets in hand, beat Nottinghamshire by 42 runs.  
WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings  
S C Broad c M T Batsman 180  
P Peart c Bowes c M T Batsman 40  
P Hirst c Bowes c M T Batsman 11  
P Hirst c Bowes c M T Batsman 6  
D W Randall c Bowes c M T Batsman 15  
F D Stephenson c Bowes c M T Batsman 18  
N N French c Bowes c M T Batsman 11  
E E Hartman c Bowes c M T Batsman 11  
M C Bowes c Bowes c M T Batsman 3  
R A Pick not out 14  
J A Afridi c Bowes c M T Batsman 2  
Extras (5.4 to 12. W 4, no 13) 251

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-127, 2-158, 3-258, 4-333, 5-303, 6-323, 7-355, 8-375, 9-384, 10-393.

BOWLING: Nottinghamshire 25-5-87-4; Base 28-8-92-2; Middle 28-8-92-2; Extras 28-8-92-1. Derbyshire 25-5-87-4; Base 28-8-92-2; Middle 28-8-92-2; Extras 28-8-92-1.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings  
P D Bowler c Broad c M T Batsman 20  
A M Brown c Jackson c Cooper 11  
J E Hartman c Bowes c M T Batsman 5  
A P Kuper not out 0  
Extras 9

Total (2 wkt, 54 overs) 123

K J Barnett, C Adams, B Roberts, G Miller, A E Walker, S J Eas and D H Morris not out.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-122. Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 3, Derbyshire 1.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and B Leadbetter.

Yorks v Northants

HEADINGTON: Northants, with eight first-wickets in hand, beat Yorkshire by 42 runs.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings  
S A Kallich c Fordham c B Ambrose 38  
A M Metcalfe c Fordham c B Ambrose 25  
P J Bailey c Fordham c B Ambrose 25  
P J Bailey c Fordham c B Ambrose 25  
C White c Thomas c B Ambrose 0  
D Byas c B Ambrose 0  
P Carrick c B Ambrose 0  
A M Metcalfe c Fordham c B Ambrose 0  
P J Bailey c Fordham c B Ambrose 0  
A M Metcalfe c Fordham c B Ambrose 0  
S D Fletcher c J Allison c B Ambrose 0  
C White c Thomas c B Ambrose 0  
Total (25 overs) 158

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-38, 3-48, 4-58, 5-68, 6-124, 7-144, 8-188, 9-193.

BOWLING: Ambrose 22-9-49-5; Thomas 12-8-47-2; White 5-2-0-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings  
W Larkins b Jarvis 0  
A Fordham not out 0  
P J Bailey c Fordham c B Ambrose 0  
P J Bailey c Fordham c B Ambrose 0  
A J Lamb not out 125  
Extras 0

Total (2 wkt, 24 overs) 241

J D Capel, G Cook, T D Ripley, J G Thomas, C Wates, N G Cook and M A Robinson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-41.

Bonus points: Yorkshire 7, Northants 4.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and D R Shepherd

Sussex v Surrey

HOVE: Sussex, with 10 first-wickets in hand, are 425 runs behind Surrey.

SURREY: First Innings  
G S Clinton c Mansfield 42  
D J Rickard b Bowes 65  
A J Stewart c P Wels b Salisbury 77  
M A Lynch c Lenthall b C M Wells 9  
D J Rickard c P Wels b Salisbury 16  
J D Ward c P Wels b Salisbury 58  
A J Stewart c P Wels b Salisbury 9  
K T Medycott c Lenthall b Salisbury 23

A N EMPHATIC 5-1 victory over France yesterday earned Great Britain runners-up position in the five-nation student hockey tournament at Maastrecht, in the Netherlands.

Phil McGuire, of London University, capitalized on Britain's territorial dominance against the French to score the last three goals and take his tally to five in the four matches played. The first two came from Paul Krishnan, also of London, and Neil Barker, the captain of the West London Institute and British Colleges.

Britain's only hiccup came against the Netherlands on Wednesday. Despite taking the lead after 30 seconds through Richard Freeland, the Scotland international from Aberdeen University, they lost 0-1.

The women's team, who had made a shaky start, losing 3-1 to the Dutch in the opening match, won the first set 15-13 but eventually went down 15-13, 9-15, 6-15.

In their second match against the Germans, they only managed to draw 1-1, but an improved performance against the Dutch yesterday, when Kristin Spencer scored to earn a 1-1 draw, enabled them to retain runners-up position.

"We're not used to playing at this level and although we can raise our performance we can't sustain that performance for any length of time," he said.

FINAL POSITIONS: Marc 1, Netherlands; 2, Britain; 3, West Germany; 4, Italy; 5, France; 6, 1, Netherlands; 2, West Germany.

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The Times previews cup finals involving the men of Oldham and Nottingham and the women from Doncaster and Fulham

# Oldham approach final as marginal favourites

By Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent

**STATISTICALLY**, the Littlewoods Cup final is a mismatch. Nottingham Forest, the holders, from the first division, have conquered Europe. Oldham Athletic, of the second, have no history of even domestic achievement. As Joe Royle, their manager, says: "This club has never had cup runs. We've just had cup walks."

But no one has been more successful than Oldham in the two knock-out competitions this season, and it would be no surprise if they changed their tradition and stretched the year's sequence of unlikely sporting results. Rather than underdogs, they should be regarded as the favourites, albeit marginally, at Wembley tomorrow afternoon.

Forest have recently sunk into apparent chaos. With only one solitary victory in their last 10 games, they are inevitably dispirited and in such confusion that Brian Crough admitted yesterday he "hasn't got a clue" about his line-up.

As if to emphasize the point, he added: "That's the truth. The way we've been playing recently, I'm still no further forward than saying that the coach driver will be the only one definitely making the trip."

When Forest's manager first uttered the comment last month, it was taken as a

## THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY

**OLDHAM:** Frank Bunn set a new goal scoring record for the Littlewoods Cup when he scored six times in his side's 7-0 victory over Scarborough in the third round. Bunn's partner in attack, Andy Ritchie, is the leading scorer in this season's competition with 10 goals in eight games. The record is 12, set by Clive Allen, then of Tottenham, in 1986-87.

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST:** Nottingham Forest appeared in three successive League Cup finals in the late 1970s. They beat Liverpool in 1978, Southampton in 1979, but lost to Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1980. Forest beat Luton 3-1 in the Littlewoods Cup final last year, with Nigel Clough, who scored twice, winning the man of the match award. Neil Webb, now with Manchester United, scored the other goal. Forest will be bidding to win the competition for the fourth time; only Liverpool have achieved that feat, winning the Milk Cup in successive years from 1981 until 1984.

characteristically misleading aside. Now, it does not sound like a joke.

Although Forest are sure to be hit by the occasion, it is notoriously difficult to climb instantly out of such a deep decline. They may have three England internationals, who all played an active role against Czechoslovakia in midweek, but Oldham have themselves tasted the big atmosphere.

After being involved in the heat of two FA Cup semi-finals against Manchester United, they are unlikely to freeze during their debut in the national stadium. Nor were they inhibited against Arsenal and Aston Villa, who were both the leaders of the first division when they were knocked out of the cup by Oldham.

The additional defeats of

Southampton and Everton have indicated that Royle's side is fit to compete in the first division, even if they do not earn the right to do so next season. Promotion, as usual, remains the principal priority of the club and the prospect is still possible rather than probable.

Their ambitions have been damaged by the hamstring injury suffered by Andy Holden, their Welsh international central defender. He was yesterday not only ruled out of the final but is also considered doubtful for the rest of the season. "It is sad for him because he's been plagued by injuries," Royle said.

Two other, more regular, members of the side face late fitness tests. Henry, Milligan's industrious midfield partner, and Marshall, the defender

against Czechoslovakia

who has been converted into a forward, both have wounded legs. After 60 competitive fixtures, the toll might have been appreciably higher.

Oldham, whose sense of touch and artistry has been refined on their plastic surface at Boundary Park, have already illustrated they can take on the strongest sides in the country. At full strength and at their most vibrant, they are capable of stretching Forest beyond breaking point.

Only if Clough's representatives are able to forget their recent form, and refresh memories of their more typical style earlier in the season, will they maintain their hold on the trophy. If not, then all of Oldham's glorious acts of giant-killing will not have been in vain.

• **Billy Stark** makes a surprise late attempt tomorrow to be included in Celtic's Scottish Cup final squad — exactly a year after his last game for the club.

Stark, a 33-year-old midfield player, has been sidelined since suffering Achilles tendon damage during Celtic's pre-season training.

However, a sound display against Motherwell at Fir Park could propel him into the cap final frame against Aberdeen at Hampden Park.

Celtic need Stark's experience following three defeats and a draw in their last four league matches.

**McCreadie blow to Portadown**

By George Ace

**ROY McCREADIE**, Portadown's influential midfield player, is almost certain to miss the crucial cup match in the Irish League at Shankill Park today against Linfield.

McCreadie has received physiotherapy this week but has confined his activities to light training with no sprain. "It does not look good," McCreadie said yesterday. "But it will be a last-minute decision."

Three points will wrap up the championship for Portadown for the first time in their history, irrespective of the result of Glenavon's away game against Coleraine. Glenavon go in to today's match at the Showgrounds one point behind their Mid Ulster rivals and level on goal difference.

The indifferent form of Coleraine in recent weeks has seen them plummet into the bottom half of the table, whereas Glenavon have not looked back since their 2-0 win over Portadown at Mourneview Park last Saturday week and defeating Distillery 5-0 and Larne 4-1 in their last two games.

Glenavon have no team worries. Terry Nicholson, the manager, said: "The only sure thing is that the League title is coming to Mid Ulster. If we beat Coleraine, and I am very confident we will, then the Showgrounds result is crucial. Linfield played well at the Oval on Sunday night and I hope they are in similar mood on Saturday."

Ards have played an £80,000 fee on Alan Ferris, aged 19, their goalkeeper, who is attracting attention from Dunfermline and Chelsea.

Jimmy Todd, acting manager at Ards, said: "Dunfermline asked us to put a price on Ferris and we told them £80,000 would clinch the deal. Ferris will be watched on Tuesday night in a reserve game and a decision made. Chelsea have made noises but nothing concrete."

Coleraine's biggest game of the season is on Saturday with a clash with Portadown at the Showgrounds.

Coleraine's manager, Terry Nicholson, said: "We are in a difficult position. We have to win the Showgrounds and hope Portadown win at Shankill Park."

Portadown's manager, Roy McCreadie, said: "We have to win the Showgrounds and hope Coleraine win at Shankill Park."

• **Challenge to Football Trust**



Hands: Shilton and Doncaster Belle, Tracy Davidson, pause during training

## That's entertainment promise by Rangers

By Roddy Forsyth

WITH the principal issues at the top and bottom of the table settled last Saturday, it is safe to say that this afternoon should be free of the tension which characterizes the Premier Division during the greater part of the season. Given the number of managers who have taken to declaring that the quality of football in the division has diminished, one would expect that this afternoon would present teams with an opportunity to redeem themselves by a return to cavalier play.

Certainly, Rangers, as befits their status as champions, have declared their intention to to present their supporters with a display of stylish football against Dunfermline Athletic at Ibrox. Walter Smith, Rangers' manager, said yesterday that they were particularly anxious to avoid a defeat in the last home match of the season, which was their fate a year ago when they lost 3-0 to Aberdeen.

"We should be able to go out and turn on the style as a demonstration of exactly why we are the champions for the second year in a row."

Rangers will be without Chris Woods, the club's keeper, who is recovering from a knee injury while he was the England party before the midweek international against Czechoslovakia at Wembley. He plunged a penknife into one of his fingers while attempting to cut some elastic out of his track suit bottoms, and he has not recovered sufficiently to be risked against the visitors from Fifeshire.

Instead, Colin Scott will make his League debut for the club, after having been on loan to Brechin, the English third division side. For their part, Dunfermline, whose Premier Division status was guaranteed by last week's victory over St Mirren, will take the field without the injured George O'Boyle.

The chance of a place in next season's UEFA Cup is still open to a number of clubs, most obviously Celtic, who are at home to Motherwell. Celtic can

also address the possibility of entry to the Cup Winners' Cup if they should beat Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup final in two weeks' time, but they have yet to produce a performance of form which would suggest that they can enter the ultimate match of the season as favourites.

Accordingly, the Celtic manager, Billy McNeill, is keen to advance on both fronts, but is not helped by the absence of Paul Elliott and Mike Galloway, while Joe Miller is doubtful with a knee injury.

Derek Whyte, however, should have recovered from the injury he sustained playing in Scotland's B international against the German Democratic Republic in midweek.

Aberdeen, the other Cup finalists, are at home to St Mirren, who have taken five points from their last three visits to Pittodrie. Hibernian play relegated Dundee at Easter Road, and Dundee United entertain Heart of Midlothian, who may be without Robertson.

• **ALDERSHOT**, the fourth division club, will be wounded if they fail to meet their £120,000 in outstanding debts — most of which are to the taxman. A public meeting will be held in the town on Monday in an effort to find the money.

Colin Hancock, the club chairman, who has ploughed £300,000 into Aldershot over the last year, helping it survive three winding-up orders, warned: "I cannot continue to pump money into the club. The winding-up order will only be withdrawn if we can raise over £100,000 within the next few days. I have nowhere to go, but to appeal to the general public for help. The situation is desperate."

• **GENOA:** Uruguay's World Cup forward, Carlos Alberto Aguilera, has been arrested in Italy police said yesterday (Reuters reports). They refused to give details of the charges.

Aguilera, aged 25, was arrested at his home in Genoa, where he plays for the Italian first division club, Genoa, after returning from an international match in West Germany, in which Uruguay drew 3-3.

• **THE CHelsea** chairman, Ken Bates, yesterday accepted £30,000 libel damages over newspaper allegations that he had bullied players. The publishers of *The Sun*, Newsgroup Newspapers, also agreed to pay his legal costs in the High Court at London.

• **The Northern Ireland** manager, Billy Bingham, has called an emergency Liverpool mid-field player, Jim McColl, as a full-strength international squad for Tuesday's testimonial for Danny Blanchflower against his old club, Tottenham Hotspur, at White Hart Lane.

• **TEHERAN:** Iran are to employ a foreign coach for the first time to strengthen their efforts to qualify for the Olympic football tournament in Barcelona (AFP reports). An unnamed coach is expected to arrive in Teheran next week to negotiate a contract.

## Belles and Friends to make case in the final

By Louise Taylor

THE Women's Cup final between Doncaster Belles and the Friends of Fulham at Derby County this afternoon will be a repeat of the 1985 affair when the London side defeated Belles 2-0 for their only WFA Cup success.

But it could be a different story this time — formidable Doncaster enter their seventh final in eight years undefeated over four league seasons.

Extended highlights will be screened by Channel 4, at 5.30pm tomorrow afternoon, and whatever the result the women will be out to prove Archie MacPherson wrong. The television commentator ruffled a few feathers within the WFA with his comments in a Scottish Sunday newspaper last week.

"I am not saying a woman's place is purely in the home — although some slivvying does not do them any harm," MacPherson wrote. "If Channel 4 wants to show us how entertaining football can be outside the senior game, then let them put the cameras at other places. Like any school playground."

At least Peter Shilton, the England and Derby County goalkeeper is more enlightened — he was devoted part of yesterday morning to putting Theresa Wiseman, the Fulham and England goalkeeper, and Tracey Davidson, her Doncaster rival, through their paces yesterday.

## Aldershot may fold next week

## Villa out to make most of what they might get

By Louise Taylor

THE maxim that it is not what you've got but what you make of it, has been stretched to the limit by Graham Taylor and his Aston Villa players this season. Already, Villa have a second place in the first division, a side which was among the pre-season favourites for relegation — now, that should Liverpool stumble at home to Queen's Park Rangers, and Norwich City capitulate at Villa Park this afternoon, the League championship could still be within their grasp.

Two points clear with a game in hand, Liverpool are determined to leave Villa fighting in vain. By beating QPR at Anfield, they can add further credence to the theory about cream always rising to the top and, depending on the result from Birmingham, could secure the title by tea-

time.

Leeds remain top, after Wednesday night's unscheduled home defeat to Barnsley, are only one point above Sheffield and two ahead of Newcastle. It is, therefore, conceivable that, after leading the division for

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Markofdistinction gives young Italian biggest success to date at Sandown

# Dettori bounces back in style

By Michael Seely  
Racing Correspondent

DISPLAYING cool nerves and fine judgement of pace, Lanfranco Dettori swooped to conquer on Markofdistinction in the Trusthouse Forte Mile at a sun-drenched Sandown yesterday.

It was the first day back for the 19-year-old Italian-born rider after his horrific fall on Long Island at Epsom on Tuesday.

Yesterday's achievement in beating Steve Cauthen on Citidancer was the most important triumph of his career at the start of his first season as contract rider to Luca Cusani.

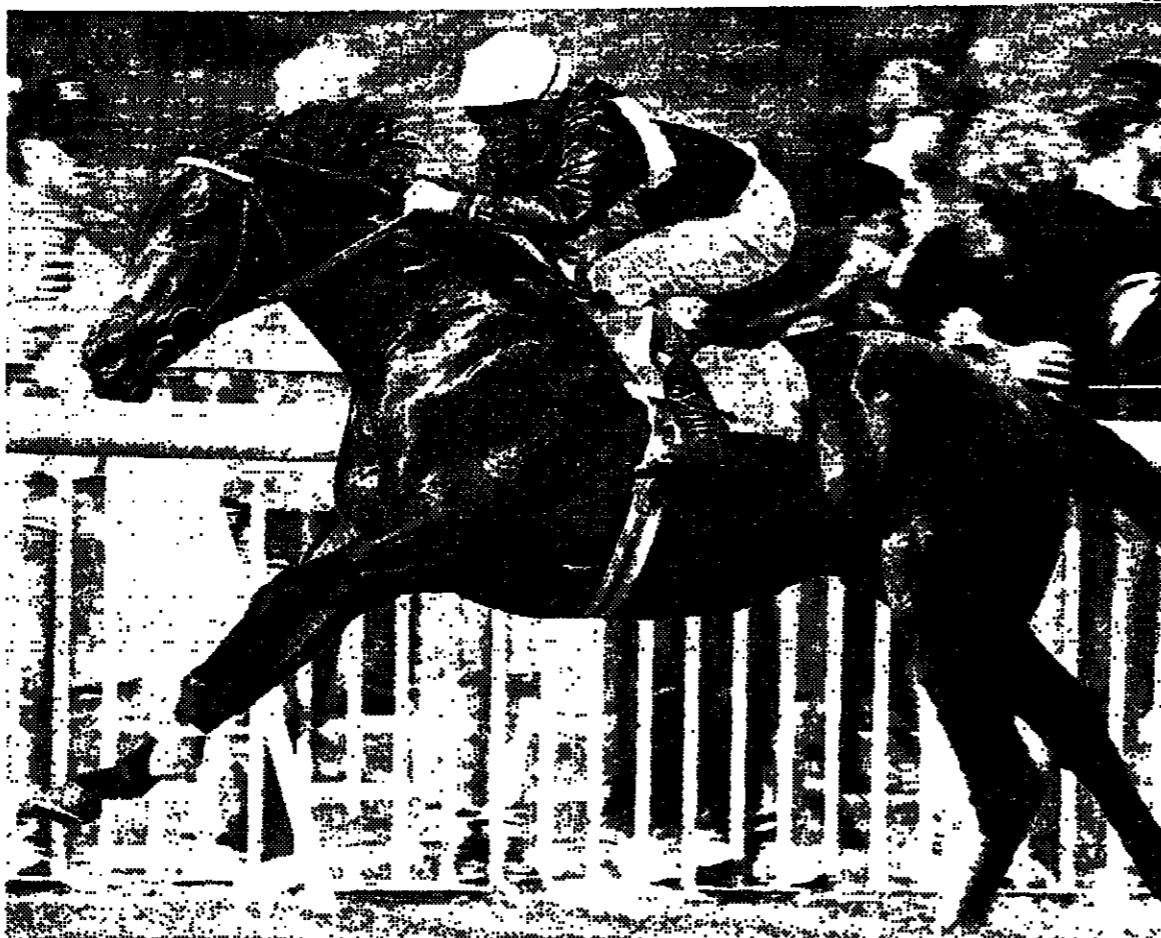
Dettori said: "We weren't sure of his stamina so the plan was to wait as late as possible. I was certain I was going to win from the furlong marker. That's my first group two win."

This sparkling win certainly gave a boost to the outstanding form of last season's top milers - a view not shared by the official handicappers - and in particular to the merit of the 2,000 Guineas in which Markofdistinction had finished fourth to Nashwan.

Markofdistinction will now be trained for the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury and the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot. His stable companion Pinta Army, who ran so well when finishing a close third to Termon at Newmarket, will next go for either the Prix d'Isleau at Longchamp on May 27 or the Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown the following afternoon.

Cusani will have no runner in the 1,000 Guineas and will decide whether to go for the 2,000 Guineas with his Greenham Stakes runner-up, Montendre, after a gallop at Newmarket this morning.

Whether Steve Cauthen will be able to take an outside mount in the Guineas depends upon how Shavian, the Craven Stakes third, works at Newmarket this morning. "We're not certain whether to go for the Guineas or to run



Power and glory as Steve Cauthen steers Saumarez to an impressive victory at Sandown yesterday over a mile and a quarter next," said Henry Cecil. "Tomorrow morning's work should tell us the answer."

Cecil, out of luck with Citidancer, had earlier watched Saumarez continue the fine run of his three-year-old colts when storming home by 10 lengths in the Harvester Graduation Stakes.

Yesterday's 13-8 on winner is owned, like last year's St Leger winner Michelozzo, by Charles St George. "He's in the Dee Stakes at Chester," said the trainer. In the concluding Post House Fillies Stakes, the punters laid 7-4 on Escrime to make it a double for Warren Place. But although the favourite was de nied a clear run early in the

straight she was never going well enough to master Cameo Performance. Michael Hills and the winner appeared to drift to the right in the last furlong, but after a steward's inquiry the placings were allowed to stand. Two furlongs from home in this race nothing was going better than Shamarza.

But Walter Swinburn started to pull Shamerza's half-sister up in the last furlong. The filly collapsed after passing the winning post but was later led back to the stables. It is understood that she has suffered from cramp injury.

Cameo Performance's victory was well anticipated by Hills and Robert Sangster, the filly's owner, as she was

backed from 10-1 to 11-2. "She's in the Oaks," said the trainer, "and she'll have her next race in either the Cheshire Oaks or the Lingfield Trial." As far as the Manton 1,000 Guineas fillies are concerned, Pat Eddery will ride Negligent and Silk Slippers will be partnered by either Cash Asmussen and Ray Cochrane.

• Tony Ives has been released on bail in Hong Kong following a complaint that he hit a stable lad with a whip at Sha Tin yesterday.

• Line Of Vision, who beat Last Innocence by a head in the Restricted open race at the Southwell, Mountain Glen is preferred for *The Times* Championship qualifier at the York and Ainsty point-to-point today.

Worrying, however, is his Point-to-point  
By Brian Beel

FOLLOWING Cobitis For Gold's disappointing run last week, when favourite in the restricted open race at the Southwell, Mountain Glen is preferred for *The Times* Championship qualifier at the York and Ainsty point-to-point today.

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# Unique double awaits Mr Frisk

By Mandarin  
(Michael Phillips)

HAVING won the Grand National at Aintree three weeks ago, Mr Frisk now looks poised to claim his own special place in racing's hall of fame by becoming the first horse to win the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park as well.

Kim Bailey's wife, Tracey, who arguably knows the 11-year-old better than anyone, having exercised him so much over the years, reiterated that Mr Frisk has thrived since Liverpool and that he appears to be better now than he has ever been.

It is also the only member of today's 13-strong field to have won over today's course

and distance; Seagram, Tarconey and Memberson being the other previous Sandown winners in the line-up.

On a point of handicapping, Mr Frisk now looks leniently treated with only 10st 5lb to carry. He goes unpenalized for winning the National and will actually meet the runner-up, Durham Edition, on a pound better terms.

Since form over the big Liverpool fences does not always relate to that on park courses, it is pertinent to add that Mr Frisk is also well in today's judgment on his close third behind Ghostr and Brown Windsor in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury last November.

On that occasion Durham Edition was five lengths behind in fourth place when receiving 6lb from Mr Frisk, now he must give him four.

The top weight Kildimo has recently spent a while in the care of that renowned horseman Harvey Smith in the hope that he could iron out the problems that have beset this potentially top-class horse for too long. Time alone will tell whether Smith's magic has worked.

Strands Of Gold is clearly not the force he was when winning the 1988 Hennessy, while Seagram seems far from certain to stay today's trip on the evidence of his last two races at Cheltenham and Liverpool, where he weakened

into second place after holding a winning chance.

The same cannot be levelled at Sam Da Vinci because no horse could have stuck to his task better than he did on the corresponding occasion 12 months ago when going under by a neck to Brown Windsor.

Yet the form line through last year's winner still gives Mr Frisk the advantage at today's weights.

Like my selection, Four

Trix has not been penalized

for winning the Scottish National at Ayr a week ago.

However, he may find that today's trial of strength comes a bit too quickly.

Today's nap is Ile De

Chypre to win the Gordon

Richards Stakes even though

it is possible to argue that Dolpour should have his measure at today's weights. There was only a short head between them in last year's Champion Stakes.

By declaring a pacemaker (Gold Minories) for Ile De Chypre, Guy Harwood has shown that he means business with a horse who was good enough to win a group one race over this trip at York last August. That is good enough for me.

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## SANDOWN PARK

By Mandarin

2.25 Democratic.  
3.00 Marienski.  
3.30 ILE DE CHYPRE (nap).  
4.50 Mr Frisk.  
4.40 Eire Leath-Seal.  
5.15 Dream Talk.  
5.45 The Jockey.

By Michael Seely  
3.30 Ile De Chypre. 4.50 Mr Frisk. 4.40 Field Glass.  
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 DOLPOUR.

**Going: good (Flat course); good to firm (chase course)**  
**Draw: 5f, high numbers best**

**2.25 SANDOWN PARK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts and geldings: £2,906; 50; (11 runners)**

101 (7) 2 DEMOCRATIC (9f) S (Fat) M Ball 9-0 —  
102 (6) 3 CROWN STATE (W) (D) 10-0 —  
103 (5) 4 CROWN STATE (W) (D) 10-0 —  
104 (10) 5 JAMAICA JOE (P) (TC) (Rating) L R Henson 9-0 —  
105 (1) 6 LEAN LEADER (Dr C Stelling) C Naleon 9-0 —  
106 (8) 7 MISTER MAJOR (L) K Holt 9-0 —  
107 (3) 8 PET SHOP BOY (Mrs M Niven) C Bannister 9-0 —  
108 (9) 9 PRONGAL BLUES (C Higney) J Hines 9-0 —  
109 (12) 10 VICTORY PIPER (P) (Rating) R Henson 9-0 —  
110 (6) 11 VERY DIRECT (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 9-0 —  
111 (4) 12 YOUNG WHISTLER (A Edwards) P Mitchell 9-0 —  
112 (5) 13 ZEBRA (P) (Rating) R Henson 9-0 —  
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03.10 May	Ramsgate - Dunkerque	£68	£79	
03.10 May	Poole - Caen	£134	£144	
03.10 May	Plymouth - Roscoff	£134	£144	
05.13 May	Ramsgate - Dunkerque	£74	£84	
06.13 May	Portsmouth - Caen	£139	£149	
06.13 May	Portsmouth - St.Malo	£154	£164	
10 May	Portsmouth - St.Malo	£149	£159	
17 May	Portsmouth - Caen	£109	£129	
17,24 May	Plymouth - Roscoff	£174	£194	
20 May	Ramsgate - Dunkerque	£114	£124	
20 May	Portsmouth - Caen	£178	£188	
20 May	Portsmouth - Caen	£115	£125	
20 May	Portsmouth - St.Malo	£194	£204	
20 May	Portsmouth - St.Malo	£115	£224	
24 May	Portsmouth - Caen	£174	£194	
31 May	Ramsgate - Dunkerque	£99	£109	
31 May	Portsmouth - Caen	£164	£234	
31 May	Plymouth - Roscoff	£164	£234	

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• ACTIVE HOLIDAYS: BIRD-WATCHING  
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## TRAVEL

STEPHEN MARKSON

# In search of the pleasure principle

In the fourth of our Great Cities series,  
Robert Elms learns the rhythms of  
style-obsessed, hedonistic Barcelona

Barcelona is a bit like one of those giant old trees that have been sliced through the middle to expose the rings that reveal its history. If you start near to the statue of Christopher Columbus with your back to the sea and walk slowly towards the hills, the story of a city, a slightly crazed, decadently individual city is laid out before you. Except that unlike, say, Paris, where the past is preserved in a kind of rich architectural sepia, in the Catalan capital all of the past, from the Gothic to the Franco, the Catholic to the anarchist, are vividly and very nobly alive.

The port, the very beginning of the city both historically and geographically, is still swinging with bell-bottomed sailors, Americans with their new beavado and Spaniards with red pompons on their hats. Priests hurry to the cathedral where 12 geese roost in the cloisters, and women in black sit in their lovely, draped shade, while teenage hippies hang about outside strumming guitars. Anarchists still shout their wild, creed, and Falangists maintain their offices. Trams and funiculars, parks, and palaces are part of the everyday. And through all of this the Catalans double-park to show their defiance of authority and stroll with the iconic, slightly haughty, but that is invariably empty.

Walking is the best way to get around Barcelona. It is a compact, densely populated city, constrained by the natural barriers of the mountains and the Mediterranean. Taxis are plentiful and the underground is cheap and efficient, but on a sunny day the city is built for wandering.

Apart from the sumptuous hours of the middle, when Barcelona is a spectacularly lively city, but it has a distinctive rhythm that it is vital to master. Mornings begin early, lunch goes on forever and dinner time starts when you would normally be going to bed. Get it wrong, as many tourists do, and you will be going into closed shops, eating in empty restaurants

and sleeping when the city is coming alive.

A good way and place to begin the day is with coffee and *ensaimada* (a kind of doughy, sugared croissant) at the Cafè Zurich. A famed old meeting spot with tables arranged outside, it is perfectly placed on the pivotal square of the Plaça de Catalunya for an excursion in either direction.

If you choose to head downtown, the Ramblas become. The Ramblas, a series of streets forming the spinal backbone around which the old town is built, are an inferno of whores and boot-blacks, hawkers, pushers and pimps. The rabbit with *aboli* alone is worth the air fare.

Up town lies Eixample, the expansive, and impressive, sweep of Modernist Barcelona, where the well-to-do shop for fashion or furniture and stop for coffee and gossip. This is great, cosmopolitan Barcelona, the European city denied its status for so long by Franco's spiritual revenge on his greatest enemy.

It is also where Antoni Gaudí's impossibly surreal architecture is found. Here the fantastic offices and apartment blocks he built, perhaps the most extreme edifices in the world, are preserved, not as dry museums, but as offices and apartment blocks.

At the site of Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, the church of the Sagrada Família, the past is still being built. Watching this dinosaur being slowly born is almost as intriguing as the mad, beautiful building itself. And every time you return to the city it's a must to see what has been added. His other more lyrical composition, the Parc Güell, is well worth a cab ride into the hills, to play in this delightful art nouveau Disneyland.

The city is especially well served by parks. The best is on the pleasure mountain of Montjuic, where there is a funfair serviced by a cable car out

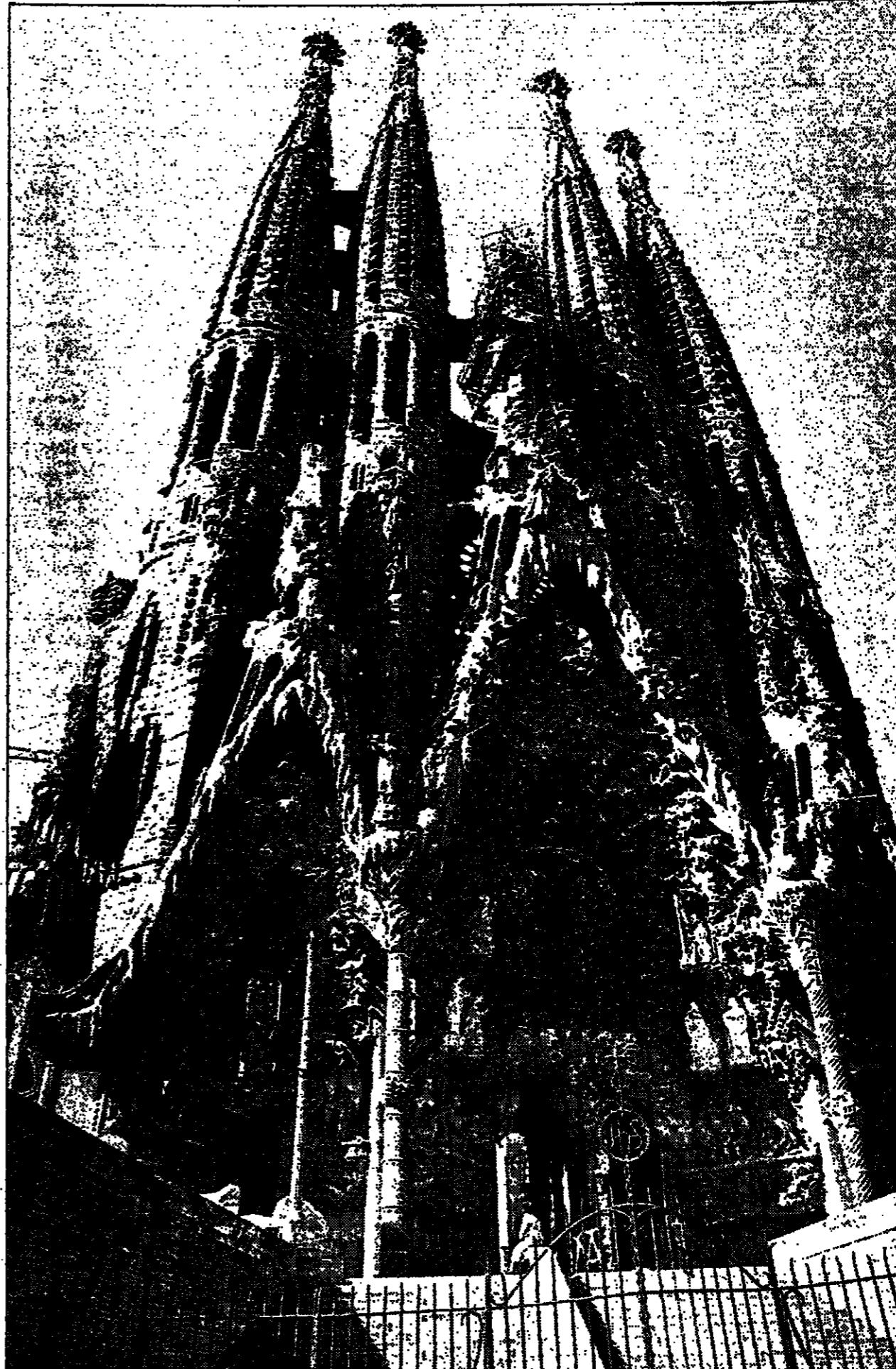
to the sea, the Olympic Stadium, a palace and a Mies van der Rohe pavilion. Joan Miró, Catalonia's favourite artistic son, is also well served here by a splendid modern museum that glows white in the sun.

Yet another permanent fun park is stuck up on the hill of Tibidabo. Here, next to a Ferris wheel and ghost train, a bar and candyfloss stall, stands a handsome church topped by a Jesus whose arms stretch out way above the layer of smog that permanently shrouds the city. This shameless juxtaposition has always displayed perfectly to me the classic Iberian mix of Catholicism and hedonism.

Barcelona has so many historic delights that many visitors miss the other side of the city. For just as the past is still delightfully alive here, so the future is happening right now. The Barcelona rebirth has led to a spate of architectural projects which have maintained the tradition of exciting, radical design. From the revamped waterfront to the glass towers of uptown Avinguda — or, in Catalan, Avinguda — Diagonal, the elegant new town is all around you.

In a city obsessed by aesthetics and pleasure, it is in the restaurants, bars and nightclubs that the two really combine. The Ramblas are roiling all night, and the finest fish restaurants are to be found by the sea in Barceloneta. But up towards the hills, where fewer tourists venture, there are a succession of excellent (and expensive) eateries, chic bars where the incredible interiors are the real stars, and nightclubs like few others in the world.

Barcelona's reputation as a hedonist's delight is well-founded. Dinner starts at about 10.30, bars are open until 3.30 and nightclubs until dawn. Arrive at a club at two, and you are too early. If you do want to join the locals in their nightly search for nirvana, the trick is to nap in the early evening and delay all of your desires as long as possible. But don't delay a trip to Barcelona: few places can satisfy them as completely.



Beautiful dinosaur: Antoni Gaudí's mad, impossibly surreal masterpiece, the Sagrada Família, is still being built

## BARCELONA: WHERE TO STAY AND WHAT TO DO

Accommodation  
*Condes de Barcelona* (215 0616) Elegantly restored Modernist building with cool marble stairways, spacious rooms and discreetly superb service. Perfectly positioned on the Passeig de Gracia. Doubles approx £110.

*Hotel Colón* (301 1404) Aged but beautiful downtown hotel in high old Catalan style, on the Plaça Avinguda de la Catedral. Doubles approx £60. Room 406 has a famously great view of the cathedral.

*Hotel Novel* (301 8274) Gently crumbling, wildly noisy, but extremely charming old hotel just off the Ramblas, on Carrer Santa Anna. The hot water works (usually) and the Escritorio (writing room) is a wonderful anachronism. Doubles approx £20.

Transport  
*Taxis* Plentiful and generally trustworthy. Fares begin with £1 on the meter, and prices can rise fast if you sit in traffic. The fare from the airport is about £12.

*Trains* Overground train pulls directly into the airport and goes to Barcelona Sants station in town; take a taxi from there.  
*Underground and buses* Flat fare about 40p.  
*Funiculars* Up the hills to Tibidabo and Montjuic, about 60p each.

*Museums*  
*Museu Picasso, Carrer Montcada* (319 6310) Magnificent Gothic courtyard house and some important early works, plus the great bullfighting engravings.

*Fundació Joan Miró, Parc Montjuic* (329 1908) Wonderful permanent collection of the most important Catalan artist. Plus galleries for temporary modern exhibitions.

*Museo de la Ciencia, Teodor Roviralta* (317 5757) New museum with an interior by Javier Mariscal, the darling of new Barcelona design.

*Opera*  
*Gran Teatre del Liceu, Ramblas* (318 9277) High opera with a magnificent interior.

*Soccer*  
Barcelona FC at the Nou Camp. See the world's richest and most embattled football team at their incredible 120,000 capacity stadium. Alternate Sundays and some Wednesdays. Tickets available on the day starting at around £6 for all matches except when playing the hated Real Madrid.

From Birmingham and Belfast to Barcelona with British Airways' Poundstretcher from £129. European flights (0293 518060).

Poundstretcher offers accommodation from £24 a night at the Dame Hotel and car hire from £42 for three days.

Charter flights from about £90 return, bookable with travel agents.

• The dialling code for Barcelona from the United Kingdom is 010 343.



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## TRAVEL

# The pleasures of spotting the bird

PHILIP DUNN



Birds of a feather: for "twitchers" — for whom ornithology is akin to train-spotting — the pursuit of rare breeds is a passion. Interest grows with knowledge: the more you know, the more you want to know

**T**hose who have never been on a natural history holiday should start with the Field Studies Council, which runs nine residential centres in the United Kingdom as well as field trips overseas.

Typical trips in 1990 include a week on the birds of Pembrokeshire for £180; four days on islands, birds and boating from the Dale Fort Field Centre in Haverfordwest, Dyfed, for £90; and a winter birds weekend on the coast and reservoirs of Suffolk and Essex for £78.

The programme also covers mammals, botany and geology, including a weekend on badgers for £70, which will include visits to a number of sets, a week on photographing butterflies at £185, a week visiting the gardens of Shropshire and Warwickshire for £172, or a week on wild flowers and other plants for £170. Previous knowledge is not essential.

A good series of wildlife and conservation weekends is available from Trusthouse Forte. You can study orchids and badgers from the Alfriston Hotel in Sussex, and watch merlins, foxes and otters on expeditions from the Radnorshire Arms at Presteigne. Typical prices start at £126 for a weekend on wetland birds, with experts on hand and binoculars available.

Caledonian Wildlife specializes in Scottish wildlife, notably in the Highlands. Its most popular trip lies in the countryside of the Great Glen and Ross-shire, a week departing from Aberdeen, costs from £275. Other one-week trips include Mull for £300, departing from Oban; Shetland, to see the puffins, from £190, departing from Aberdeen, and Islay and Jura from £350, departing from Glasgow.

Still on islands, Shetland Bird-watching Holidays offer a range of trips, including a seven-night full-

board package, complete with guide and transport, from £470 by air from Aberdeen.

Scottish wildlife is also on offer from Sir John Lister-Kaye's Aigas House and Field Centre, a large Victorian house set in 80 acres of Inverness-shire, with 600 sq miles of wild Highlands beyond that. This is golden eagle and red deer country, and the centre's programmes are adjusted to the time of year: birds in May and June, wild flowers in July, waders and seals in August and September, the red deer rut in October. A typical price for a one-week stay starts at £300. Individual visitors are welcome to participate on an *ad hoc* basis.

Across the Channel, Branta Travel, a small company specializing in bird-watching holidays, offers five days in northern France from £285, all-inclusive, or six days in the High Atlas of Morocco to see crimson finches and a range of falcons, from £485. Branta also visits good bird localities in Ireland, The Netherlands and Spain.

Meanwhile, the Cota Donana of Andalusia is one of the finest

national parks in Europe, and a one-week trip with Mundi-Color costs from £292.

An ever wider range of countries is available through Cygnus Wildlife, with trips ranging from Argentina to Zambia, and from the Galapagos Islands to Majorca. Large groups are not conducive to good bird-watching, so Cygnus limits its groups to 18 people. Some tours are quite long and expensive: 23 days birding and trekking in Nepal costs from £1,590, but eight days in Majorca in May, when the African migrants arrive, costs just £490. Cygnus also offers a Tiger Special to the National Parks of India, 17 days for £1,430, including a "non-ornithological" visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra. I must tell Brian about this one.

Twickers' World offers wildlife holidays in every continent, including Antarctica. My personal choice from its 1990 programme would be 16 days studying the natural history of Costa Rica in the Monteverde Cloud Forest, rich in plant and birdlife. Prices start at £1,299. Ornitholidays has a wide-ranging

programme to more than 20 countries, catering for keen birdwatchers rather than twitchers. Typical examples include 14 days at Lake Neusiedl in Austria, which lies on a main migration route, from £645; two weeks in Thailand for a great range of tropic birds, for £1,459, and 16 days in the Okavango Delta from £2,385.

Birdwatch also has a wide range of trips, including one to Poland, which will also appeal to beginners: 10 days from £856. Keen watchers might prefer a trip to the jungles of Borneo and the Malay peninsula, 22 days for £2,450, or an expedition to the sea birds, penguins, sea lions and whales of the Antarctic, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands for £7,450.

Surbird has been running bird-watching holidays for 12 years, and has a vast programme available, including trips to the Costa Donana and other parts of Spain, 11 days for £1,380, or 10 days in the Camargue for £890, or 14 days in California for £1,975.

Voyages Jules Verne offers botany and natural history as well as

bird-watching in a brochure that includes whale-watching off Newfoundland and botanizing in Bulgaria. Ten days bird-watching in the Canary Islands in July costs from £889, 16 days on the birds and butterflies of Costa Rica £1,755, a 15-day wildlife tour in Sabah, Malaysia, with orang-utans, turtles, gibbons and paradise flycatchers is £1,395, or there is bird-watching in Majorca in April, seven days from £438.

Cox and King's Special Interest tours offer botany as the main object, and 11 countries including Turkey, Canada and Australia; 17 days in southern Turkey in April from £945.

Swan Hellenic is perhaps best known for its art-history tours, but it also runs natural history holidays covering bird-watching, botany and ecology. Chile is once again open to serious travellers, with a 20-day trip to the Atacama Desert and Patagonia from £3,125. In July you can study the Alpine flowers of the Valais in Switzerland, eight days from £760. Swan Hellenic has a natural history tour of Brazil, 18 days in October, visiting the Itatiaia and Iguaçu national parks from £438.

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Voyages Jules Verne offers botany and natural history as well as

## TRAVEL NOTES

RSPB Holidays 0767 680551; Swan Hellenic

Natural History 01-831 1616; Twickers' World 01-892

8164; Cox and King's 01-834 7472; Jules Verne

Natural World 01-724 6624; Branta Travel 01-229

7231; Field Studies

Council 0743 850574; Treadhouse Forte Country

Pursuits 01-567 3444;

Sunbird 0767 662969; Cygnus Wildlife 0548 856178;

Shetland Bird-Watching

Holidays 041 772 5928;

Mundi-Color 01-834 3492;

Aigas Field Centre 0463

762443; Ornitholidays

0243 821230; Birdquest

025486 317; Caledonian

Wildlife 0463 710017.

## TRAVEL NEWS

Are you thinking of pottering down to Potsdam at your own pace this summer? Save yourself the trouble of a completely DIY motoring holiday and consider one of the new East Germany packages from Scandinavian Seaways. Prices for one week start at £152 per person for two nights at sea, crossing between Harwich and Hamburg, and two nights each in East and West Berlin, inclusive of ferry transportation for the car and breakfast in the hotels. The Hotel Schloss Cecilienhof in Potsdam, where the Potsdam Agreement of 1945 was signed by the Allied Powers, is one of the East German hotels featured (0255 241234).

• Assembling the information to compare the cost and timing permutations of travelling to France by air, rail, motorail and fly-rail combinations has, until now, been no easy task. From Monday, France Ticket Service should solve the problem with its easily comprehensible six-page brochure and booking service. The new enterprise has official French backing (01-750 4262).

• Readers warn that the French motorway oil scam is still being tried this year. Some service station personnel check motorists' oil when they stop for petrol and then top up the level from too large and overpriced cans. Motorists report charges of £15 and more for oil they did not need, plus the nuisance of adding a three-quarters' full can to their holiday baggage.

• One holiday destination that cannot be greeted with a "been there, done that" response is the Khangai Mountains on the northernmost edge of Outer Mongolia. Bristol travel firm Himalayan Kingdoms is planning a trek to the remote range. The company has checked records kept at the Royal Geographical Society and believes that this trek will be the first group of Britons to visit the range. The 20-day trip, beginning July 8, includes Moscow and a train journey to Peking and costs £2,400 (0272 237163).

• By the turn of the 18th century, New Lanark was Scotland's biggest cotton mill and 2,500 people lived and worked in the purpose-built Utopian village. The setting, in a wooded tributary valley of the Clyde, gives the village a character that still seems idyllic today. Now three of its historic buildings, including the Institute for the Formation of Character, have been opened to visitors. The visitor centre and exhibits are open daily from 11am to 5pm. Entrance is £1.50 for adults, £1 for children and concessions (0555 613345). Shona Crawford Poole

Travel Editor

**Special Family Offer on Summer Cruises.**

Swan Hellenic is offering up to 50% discount for young people under the age of 26 travelling with a full fare paying adult on three fourteen day cultural cruises: 'The Moors and Spain', departs 21st June. 'Vikings, Normans and Bretons', departs 25th July. 'Atlantic Coast to Mediterranean Shore', departs 8th August. For further details call 01-831 1515. 77 New Oxford Street, London WC1R 1PP.

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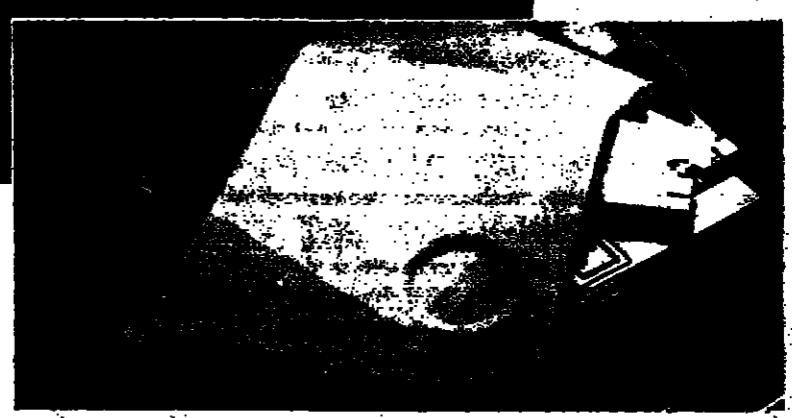
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INDEX

## TRAVEL

NICHOLAS WOOD

# Tee-time with the loafers

**Nicholas Wood**  
takes a measured  
swing on some  
of Bermuda's  
eight courses

**S**hakespeare set *The Tempest* here and made Caliban the resident professional. Mark Twain travelled about the islands in a donkey cart and pronounced it the right country for a jaded man to lose in.

Of the two, Twain, who had the advantage of first-hand experience, is the more reliable chronicler. This imperial backwater, still a colony complete with governor and flagpole, a tiny curl of coral and limestone in the western Atlantic, is a loafer's paradise. It is also a golfer's paradise.

There are eight courses within Bermuda's 21 square miles and one of them, Mid Ocean, is fit to rank among the best in the world; as intriguing as Ballybunion and as spectacular as Pebble Beach.

So how does one combine golfing with loafing? Answer: get a caddy car, or even better, a caddy.

Golf in Bermuda, which is two hours' flying time from

a first-class base for exploring the other courses. Not least, this is because of Ian Crowe, the shrewd local professional, who has been on the islands on and off since leaving his native Galashiels in 1960. Mr Crowe runs the golf at the Belmont and will also book tee times at other clubs.

On his own course, his main concern is to fit in everyone looking for a game, particularly in the mornings, when business is brisk. Americans like to get up at dawn and attack the course. The British, who are outnumbered 10 to one among the island's tourists, are happier with a more leisurely approach.

It is easy to underestimate the Belmont - 5,777 yards off the back tee and a friendly looking par 70. But the narrow fairways, small and hard greens requiring much use of the pitch and run, and tight angles for approach shots take their toll on the front nine.

The second nine gives you more room to breathe and ends with three memorable holes: a long par 4 to a wicked, sloping green, a picturesque par 3 aimed at the sea, and an uphill par 4 of 372 yards.

The perfect drive on the 18th goes up the right-hand side of the fairway and invariably finishes up on the left some 40 yards behind the landing area. Mr Crowe explains that the fairway cannot be levelled because below it lies a crystal cave, common on the islands. The only way to be sure of clearing the hill is to fly 7240 yards off the tee.

Belmont is a fair test for the average club golfer. But even average players like to pit themselves against the best. On Bermuda, that means Mid Ocean, a magnificent wilderness of mangrove swamp, forest, and switchback fairways, rising and falling beside the sea.

**C**addy cars, robust little vehicles that can carry two golfers, clubs and a fair-sized icebox, soon come to seem an essential in this balmy, atmospheric. They go pretty well up to a speed of about 15 mph - the legal maximum on the island's roads is 20 mph - but they can take some stopping on a hanging tee.

The golfers move even slower as large men in loud checks from places like Des Moines and Pittsburgh expand, some four and a half hours on a round. Back home, in the Sunday morning fourball you would be reaching for the grapeshot. In Bermuda, where the temperature rarely drops below 70°F, it does not seem to matter. There is the distortion of the brightly coloured birds, one of which, the yellow-breasted larkspur, seems to cry "hit the ball" as it flies through the trees, or of another sweep of the aquamarine Atlantic, or the solace of the icebox.

I stayed at the Belmont, a comfortable L-shaped building with a commanding view of ferries plying the Little Sound to Hamilton, the capital, and adorned in a deep pink. Such shades are much favoured by Bermudians for their houses, which are topped with deeply ridged, white, lime-washed roofs to collect precious rainwater. The Belmont is the only hotel on the islands with a full-sized golf course attached. It also makes

flatter than the Belmont and Mid Ocean but still a challenge, and Port Royal. The latter is Bermuda's sole public course, but its immobile clubhouse and roller-coaster fairways, snaking through a wooded landscape, bear little resemblance to the tired municipal tracks back home.

Castle Harbour, which adjoins Mid Ocean and is reputedly the hilliest and most picturesque course on the islands, is also worth a visit if you do not mind blind tee shots.

Golf is not all Bermuda has to offer. There is a wealth of historical sites, high-class shopping in Hamilton, and some of the most alluring beaches you will see outside Cornwall, all palm trees, white or pink coral sand and invigorating surf.

A game of tennis is easily arranged and, although it was out of season, a yacht was found to take our party on a cruise around the myriad small islands in the Great Sound and the Little Sound.



A shot to linger over: the well-manicured golf course at the Belmont hotel overlooks the myriad islands in Little Sound, leading to Hamilton

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### TRAVEL NOTES

- A week's bed and breakfast at the Belmont, including British Airways flight from Gatwick, costs about £767 in February, the mid-point of a golfing season that starts at the end of November and ends in May, when the weather becomes too hot for all but mad dogs and Englishmen.
- Tour operators offering Truehouse Forte's World of Golf programmes/packages include Sovereign Golf (0233 514742), and Longshot Golf Holidays (0730 66821).
- Golf on the Belmont course is free to guests and those staying at its sister establishment, the Harmony Club, a collection of apartments attractively grouped alongside a central dining and social area. Caddy cars cost \$15 a person (£5). A round at Mid Ocean costs about \$100 (£50) including a caddy, but Port Royal and Riddell's Bay are much cheaper at about \$30 (£18).
- A glass of beer is about £2 in the hotels and cocktails £3. Eating out at hotels or the many specialist restaurants dotted throughout the islands, costs much the same as in London's West End. The seafood is very good, but only the rock fish is caught locally, the clams, oysters and lobsters being imported from North America.
- Hire cars are banned on Bermuda, which means you have to take a scooter; hazardous with golf clubs in tow, or rely on taxis, which tend to be expensive.



**Old style: Harmony Club**  
New York, and seven hours from London, is essentially golf American-style. The courses have that lush, manicured look so much so that you feel you are ambling through a vast botanical garden. The hand of Robert Trent Jones, with his elevated tees, plunging fairways and scalloped bunkers, is much in evidence.

Caddy cars, robust little vehicles that can carry two golfers, clubs and a fair-sized icebox, soon come to seem an essential in this balmy, atmospheric. They go pretty well up to a speed of about 15 mph - the legal maximum on the island's roads is 20 mph - but they can take some stopping on a hanging tee.

The golfers move even slower as large men in loud checks from places like Des Moines and Pittsburgh expand, some four and a half hours on a round. Back home, in the Sunday morning fourball you would be reaching for the grapeshot. In Bermuda, where the temperature rarely drops below 70°F, it does not seem to matter. There is the distortion of the brightly coloured birds, one of which, the yellow-breasted larkspur, seems to cry "hit the ball" as it flies through the trees, or of another sweep of the aquamarine Atlantic, or the solace of the icebox.

I stayed at the Belmont, a comfortable L-shaped building with a commanding view of ferries plying the Little Sound to Hamilton, the capital, and adorned in a deep pink. Such shades are much favoured by Bermudians for their houses, which are topped with deeply ridged, white, lime-washed roofs to collect precious rainwater. The Belmont is the only hotel on the islands with a full-sized golf course attached. It also makes



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